

## COPY OF DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

### Cover Note

<b>DP No.</b>	DP 537								
<b>School</b>	Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin								
<b>Proposal</b>	Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin will increase its admissions and enrolment numbers from 21 to 26 and 145 to 182 respectively, with effect from 1 September 2018, or as soon as possible thereafter.								
<b>Department's Decision</b>	Approved								
<b>Date of Decision</b>	15 March 2018								
<b>Permanent Secretary's Comments</b>	<i>"The case for change is well made, particularly in respect of aligning the school's admissions with the places at the Naíscoil, removing reliance on composite year groups, evidence of growing demand and the likelihood of minimal impact on neighbouring Irish Medium provision. I am therefore content to approve the recommendations set out at paragraph 85 of your submission"</i>								
<b>Additional Notes</b>	-								
<b>Information redacted</b>	Some information and personal data may have been removed in line with the principles of the Freedom of Information and Data Protection Act.								
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Key</th> <th>Details</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>■</td> <td>redaction</td> </tr> <tr> <td>*</td> <td>refers to less than five cases where data is considered sensitive</td> </tr> <tr> <td>#</td> <td>means figure has been suppressed to prevent disclosure of sensitive information under rules of disclosure</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Key	Details	■	redaction	*	refers to less than five cases where data is considered sensitive	#	means figure has been suppressed to prevent disclosure of sensitive information under rules of disclosure
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#	means figure has been suppressed to prevent disclosure of sensitive information under rules of disclosure								

**From:** Dorina Edgar  
Area Planning Policy and Shared Education Campuses Team

**Date:** 2 March 2018

**To:** Derek Baker  
Permanent Secretary

*Copy distribution below:*

## **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL (DP) 537 - BUNSCOIL BHEANN MHADAGÁIN**

**Issue:** To decide on DP 537: Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin will increase its admissions and enrolment numbers from 21 to 26 and 145 to 182 respectively, with effect from 1 September 2018, or soon as possible thereafter.

**Timescale:** Routine - as the primary admissions process is currently ongoing, an early decision would be helpful to provide certainty to Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagain and other schools in the area. The final date that the Education Authority will accept changes of preference and additional information in relation to applications is 28 March 2018.

**Financial/Resource Implications:** Capital - The Case for Change proposes that an additional double modular classroom is installed on site. The cost for provision of one double mobile would be in the region of £180-£200k, and a brick build solution would cost a similar amount, but with a longer lead in time.

Resource – The proposed increase in enrolment would result in a redistribution of the Aggregated Schools Budget, with funding following pupils.

The removal of composite classes is likely to involve additional staffing costs as the number of class-bases increases. The cost to the school based on the current average annual primary school teacher salary (inclusive of employer costs) would be approximately £51k per teacher. Any additional staffing costs would be met by the school from their delegated budget.

**FOI Implications:** The contents of this submission are likely to be fully disclosable.

**Statutory Duty Implications:** Article 89 of the Education (Northern Ireland) Order 1998.

**Presentational  
Issues:**

You will be aware of the recent media coverage on the use of the Irish language in NI, including the approval of DPs for IM schools with a very small intake of pupils. Your decision is likely to attract media attention. Press Office will liaise with the branch and draw on the contents of this submission if asked for comment.

**Recommendation:**

It is recommended that you:

- (i) Approve DP 537 – ‘Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin will increase its admissions and enrolment numbers from 21 to 26 and 145 to 182 respectively, with effect from 1 September 2018, or soon as possible thereafter’. The increase to 182 will be phased and the department will work closely with the Education Authority (EA) and the school in this regard; and
- (ii) Agree that this submission, with appropriate redactions, can be published on the Department’s website once the school and EA have been informed.

## **CONTENTS**

### **Paragraph number**

#### **Maps**

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#### **Appendices**

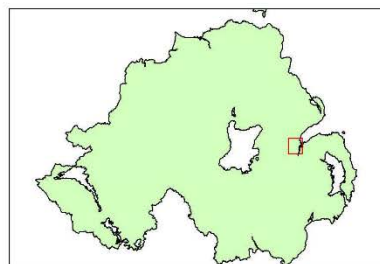
Appendix A	Copy of Published DP 537
Appendix B	Case for Change
Appendix C	ETI Commentary
Appendix D	DE Policy Team Inputs
Appendix E	Annual Area Profile

**Map 1:**

**Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagain - All primary provision (2 mile radius)**

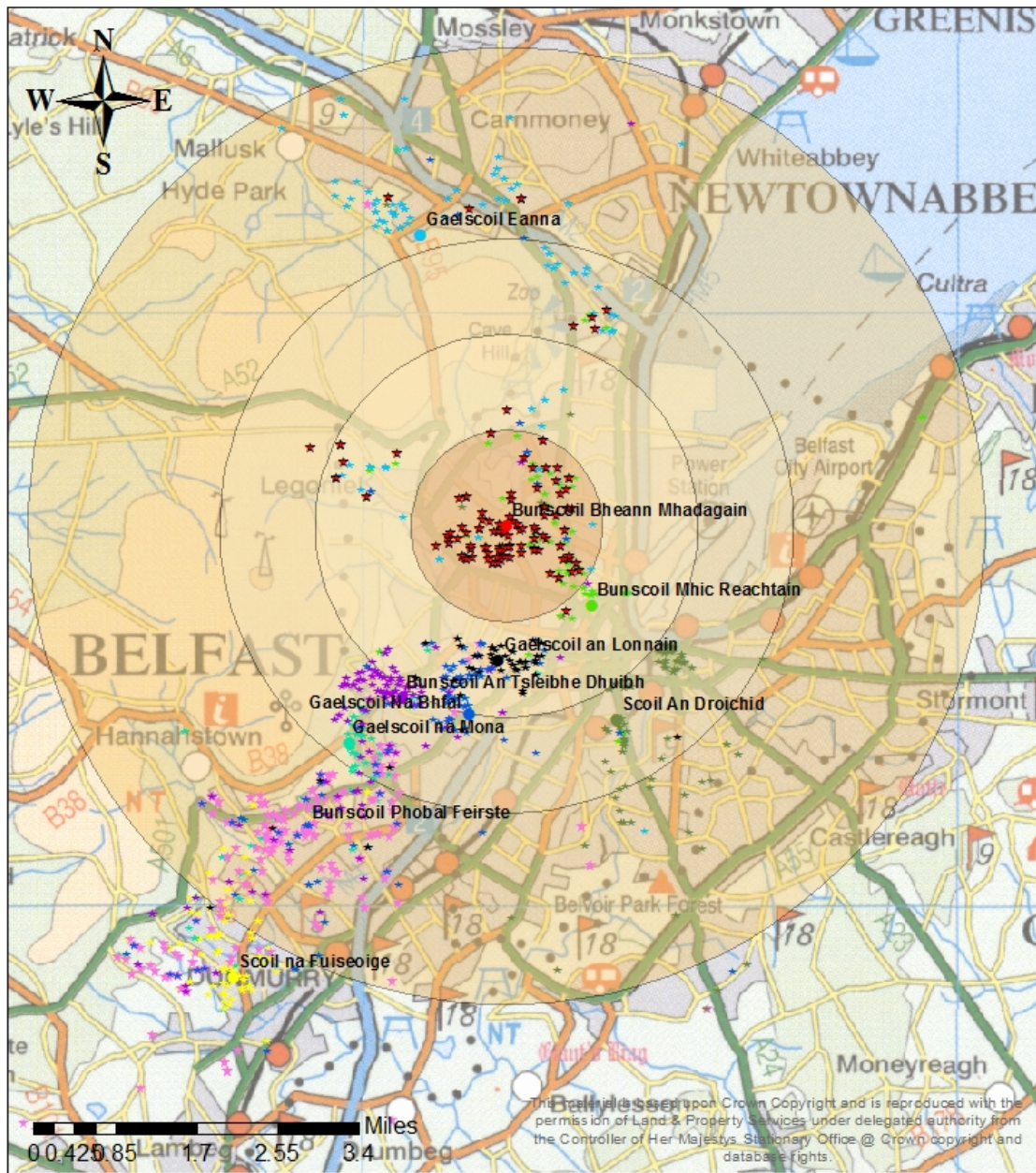


- **Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagain**
  - Maintained Primary Schools
  - Other Maintained Primary Schools
  - Grant Maintained Integrated Primary Schools
  - Controlled Integrated Primary Schools
  - Controlled Primary Schools
  - Voluntary Primary Schools
- Buffer distance in miles**
- ◇ 0.00 - 1.00
  - ◇ 1.00 - 2.00

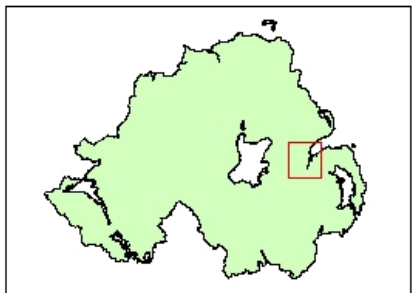


**Map 2: IM Pupil location (5 mile radius)**

**Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagain**



- Key**
- Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagain
  - ★ Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagain pupil location
  - Gaelscoil an Lonnain
  - ★ Gaelscoil an Lonnain pupil location
  - Gaelscoil Na Bhfal
  - ★ Gaelscoil Na Bhfal pupil location
  - Bunscoil An Tseibhe Dhuibh
  - ★ Bunscoil An Tseibhe Dhuibh pupil location
  - Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain
  - ★ Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain pupil location
  - Scoil An Droichid
  - ★ Scoil An Droichid pupil location
  - Bunscoil Phobal Feirste
  - ★ Bunscoil Phobal Feirste pupil location
  - Gaelscoil na Mona
  - ★ Gaelscoil na Mona pupil location
  - Gaelscoil Eanna
  - ★ Gaelscoil Eanna pupil location
  - Scoil Na Fuisseoige
  - ★ Scoil Na Fuisseoige pupil location
  - Buffer distance 1 mile
  - Buffer distance 2 miles
  - Buffer distance 3 miles
  - Buffer distance 5 miles



## INTRODUCTION

1. On 16 November 2017 the EA, on behalf of the Board of Governors of Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin, Belfast, published DP 537. The proposal seeks to increase the school's admissions and enrolment numbers from 21 to 26 and 145 to 182 respectively, with effect from 1 September 2018, or soon as possible thereafter.
2. A copy of the proposal is attached at Appendix A.

## BACKGROUND

3. Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin is an Irish-Medium (IM) grant maintained co-educational primary school. It was established in 1995 as an independent school and attained grant-aided status from the Department in 1997. The school is situated in a purpose built five-class building on a site adjacent to the Cliftonville Playing Fields which officially opened in February 2016. The school's (26 place) nursery unit is also located on this site in a new modular building.
4. Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin's approved admissions and enrolment numbers are 21 and 145 respectively. In 2017/18 there were 138 pupils enrolled at the school; with 73 pupils (52.9%) entitled to Free School Meals (FSME), with less than four pupils with statements of special educational needs.

**Table 1: Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin – Enrolment Trend**

Year	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Pupil No.	104	108	116	125	129	138

**Table 2: Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin – Year 1 Admissions**

Year	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Pupil No.	12	21	19	24	28	27

5. On the NI Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017, the Cliftonville 1 area, within which Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin is situated, ranks 98 out of 890 (1 = most deprived, 890 = least deprived).
6. Naíscoil Bheann Mhadagáin is a statutory nursery unit offering pre-school IM provision in a purpose-built building on the Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin site for up to 26 pupils of pre-school age.

**Table 3: Naíscoil Bheann Mhadagáin – Enrolment Trend**

Year	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2018/19
Pupil No.	26	25	26	30	29	25

## Area Context

7. Map 1 illustrates primary provision in the area generally. Map 2 illustrates the school's location and pupil catchment area, alongside that of neighbouring IM primary schools.

8. The EA's Area Plan '*Providing Pathways – Strategic Area Plan for School Provision* (2017 to 2020) and supporting Annual Action Plan (2017/18) were published in April 2017. The Annual Action Plan contains details of actions to address key strategic priorities contained in the Area Plan. The 2017/18 plan highlights the intention of the Board of Governors of Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin to consult on a proposed increase to the school's admissions and enrolment numbers in order to ensure that school places are located as required, and that the development of sustainable Irish medium provision is encouraged and facilitated. DP 537 is the result of that planning activity.
9. The Area Plan notes that the 0-15 year population in the Belfast Local Government District (LGD) area, where Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin is situated, will increase by 7.6% by 2024.

#### **Alternative Non-IM Primary Provision**

10. As illustrated by Map 1 and the snapshot of area provision at Table 4, there are eight Catholic Maintained schools within two miles of Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin. In 2017/18 there were 2,794 pupils enrolled across these schools, with 1,207 available places. The EA's 2017/18 Action Plan includes actions to review provision at three of these schools, Holy Cross Boys' PS, Holy Cross Girls' PS and Mercy PS.
11. There are seven Controlled schools within a two mile radius of Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin, with a Controlled Integrated school also nearby. In 2017/18 there were 2,167 pupils enrolled across these schools, with 820 available places.

#### **Alternative IM Primary Provision**

12. As illustrated by Map 2 and the snapshot of area provision at Table 4, there are eight IM alternatives to Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin within the five mile radius mapped and a further alternative, Scoil na Fuisseoige, slightly outside that radius.
13. In 2017/18 there were 364 available places at the nine alternative IM schools listed in Table 4, in addition to which there were 9 available places within the existing approved enrolment number for Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin.



**Table 4: Snapshot of Area Primary Provision**

School Name and DE Ref. No.	Post code & Distance (Google Maps, miles)	Approved Enrolment Number 2017/18	DP Approved Final Numbers	2015/16 Actual Enrol	2016/17 Actual Enrol	2017/18 Actual Enrol	2017/18 SEN Pupils	2017/18 Available Places	Approved Admissions Number 2017/18	2017/18 Actual Y1 Admissions	Total 2017/18 1st Pref. Applics	2017/18 Total Applics Accepted	2017/18 Over/Under Subscribed 1st Pref. Applics	ETI Reports Date / Overall Assessment
Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagain - 104-6596	BT14 6HP	145	-	125	129	138	█	9	21	27	29	23	Over - 8	Oct 2016 - Areas for improvement
<b>Irish Medium</b>														
Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain - 101-6647	BT15 1EZ 1.5	87		84	92	99	█	0	20	17	16	17	Under - 4	June 2013 - Good
Gaelscoil an Lonnain - 104-6672 * Ongoing JR	BT12 4PD 2.1	71		54	60	62	█	11	20	9	9	9	Under - 11	March 2017 - Areas for improvement
Scoil an Droichid - 104-6641 (MCIT) **	BT7 2EP 2.9	145	203 29	128	137	147	8	6	21	28	28	28	Over - 7	June 2015 - Good
Gaelscoil na Bhfal - 104-6571 *** DP Jan 18	BT12 6AW 3.1	290		162	167	172	█	123	28	26	27	27	Under - 1	March 2011 - Good
Bunscoil an tSleibhe Dhuibh - 104-6593	BT12 7JL 3.4	203		159	162	174	9	38	29	28	28	28	Under - 1	Feb 2016 - High level of capacity for sustained improvement
Gaelscoil na Mona - 104-6671	BT11 8QB 3.8	145		102	101	107	█	41	21	16	15	15	Under - 6	June 2011 - Good. Jan 2017 - ASOS.
Gaelscoil Eanna - 304-6685	BT36 7AU 4.7	205		158	174	185	7	27	29	27	26	26	Under - 3	June 2014 - Good June 2017 - ASOS
Bunscoil Phobal Feirste - 104-6501	BT11 9QS 5.6	406		263	287	303	7	110	58	51	50	50	Under - 8	Oct 2012 - Outstanding
Scoil na Fuisgeoige - 404-6600 - DP 267	BT17 0DF 7.7	145	182 26	127	132	141	█	8	26	21	20	20	Under - 6	June 2014 - Outstanding June 2017 - ASOS
<b>Sub-total</b>		<b>1842</b>		<b>1362</b>	<b>1441</b>	<b>1528</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>243</b>		
<b>Maintained</b>														
Sacred Heart PS - 103-6471	BT14 6HH 0.2	436		133	149	166	8	278	60	27	25	27	Under - 35	May 2010 - Good May 2017 - ASOS
Our Lady's Girls' PS - 103-0326	BT14 6NN 0.6	477		378	386	380	█	101	60	52	48	49	Under - 12	March 2011 - Outstanding June 2017 - ASOS
Holy Cross Boys' PS - 103-0194 - DP 219	BT14 7EX 0.7	445	420 60	427	445	432	15	28	60	47	45	46	Under - 15	March 2017 - High Level of capacity for sustained improvement
Holy Family PS - 103-6566	BT15 2HP 0.7	420		435	435	434	13	0	60	60	70	60	Over - 10	May 2014 - Outstanding May 2017 - ASOS
St Patrick's PS - 103-6698 - DP 211	BT15 2BP 0.8	550	610 87	534	546	515	12	47	79	56	50	54	Under - 29	Jan. 2015 - Good
Holy Cross Girls' PS - 103-0331	BT14 7HZ 1.2	487		169	188	196	█	292	70	28	30	30	Under - 40	March 2015 - Outstanding
St Therese of Lisieux PS - 103-6132	BT15 5GF 1.3	424		437	440	440	19	3	61	64	56	59	Under - 5	Sept 2009 - Good Sept. 2017 - ASOS
Mercy PS - 103-6041	BT14 7GL 1.3	684		211	214	231	5	458	90	40	36	39	Under - 54	April 2015 - Very good
<b>Sub-total</b>		<b>3923</b>		<b>2724</b>	<b>2803</b>	<b>2794</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>1207</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>364</b>		

School Name and DE Ref. No.	Post code & Distance in miles - Google Maps	Approved Enrolment 2017/18	DP Approved Final Numbers	2015/16 Actual Enrol	2016/17 Actual Enrol	2017/18 Actual Enrol	2017/18 SEN Pupils	2017/18 Available Places	Approved Admissions 2017/18	2017/18 Actual Y1 Admissions	2017/18 1st Pref. Applics	2017/18 Final Applics Accepted	2017/18 Over/Under Subscribed 1st Pref. Applics	ETI Report Date / Overall Assessment
<b>Controlled</b>														
Carr's Glen PS - 101-0282 - DP 467	BT14 6QX	420	420	371	385	378	8	50	60	54	51	54	Under - 9	Nov 2010 - Good. ASOS - Feb 2017
	0.8		60											
Edenbrooke PS - 101-0323	BT13 3GG	408		263	300	319	11	100	58	49	45	46	Under - 13	Nov 2014 - Very good
	0.8													
Currie PS - 101-0063	BT15 3AB	193		175	175	178	23	38	28	25	26	26	Under - 2	May 2013 - Very good
	0.9													
Glenwood PS - 101-6485	BT13 3GW	630		530	531	516	22	136	90	64	68	69	Under - 22	May 2014 - Good
	1.1													
Wheatfield PS - 101-6532	BT14 7JE	348		131	133	126	█	226	50	18	16	16	Under - 34	Oct 2014 - Good
	1.1													
Malvern PS - 101-6498	BT13 1HW	336		98	105	109	8	235	48	19	21	21	Under - 27	Dec 2013 - Good. ASOS - Feb 2017
	1.2													
Forth River PS - 101-0205	BT13 3PQ	210		208	205	206	6	10	30	30	39	30	Over - 9	Jan 2011 - Good. ASOS - Oct 2017
	1.9													
<b>Sub-total</b>		<b>2545</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1776</b>	<b>1834</b>	<b>1832</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>262</b>		
<b>Controlled Integrated</b>														
Cliftonville IPS - 105-6483 DP 431	BT14 6JQ	350	406	287	306	335	10	25	58	58	58	58	-	Feb 2011 - Good
	0.04		58											
<b>Sub-total</b>		<b>350</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>-</b>	
<b>Grand Totals</b>		<b>8660</b>		<b>6149</b>	<b>6384</b>	<b>6489</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>2400</b>	<b>1235</b>	<b>941</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>927</b>		

\* The actual enrolments/ actual Year 1 admissions above include stage 5 SEN pupils.

\* DP Gaelscoil an Lonnain - Ongoing JR case re school relocation.

\*\* Scoil an Droichid - Major Capital project - business case approved for a new 7 class-base school (enrolment & admissions numbers of 203/29). MCIT cannot provide estimated start/completion dates at this stage - they advise that there are legal issues to be resolved.

\*\*\* DP 538 - Gaelscoil na Bhfal - Published 18.1.2018 proposing a decrease in the approved numbers from 290/41 to 196/28, from September 2018, or asap thereafter.

DP 267 - Scoil na Fuiseoige - DP approved 27.8.2015 to increase the approved numbers from 145/21 to 182/26, from 31 August 2016, or asap thereafter.

DP 219 - Holy Cross Boys' PS - DP approved 23.8.2013 to decrease the approved numbers from 536/77 to 420/60, from September 2014, or asap thereafter

DP 211 - St Patrick's PS - DP approved 3.5.2012 - Amalgamation of Edmund Rice & Star of the Sea PS, from September 2012, or asap thereafter. Major Capital project - business case approved for a new 21 class-base school (enrolment & admissions numbers of 610/87). MCIT cannot provide estimated start/completion dates at this stage, addendum to business case being prepared.

DP 467 - Carr's Glen PS - DP approved 12.9.2016 to decrease the approved numbers from 472/60 to 420/60, from September 2017, or asap thereafter.

DP 431 - Cliftonville IPS - DP approved 11.2.2016 to increase the approved numbers from 338/48 to 406/58, from September 2016, or asap thereafter.

## **SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

### **Duty to Encourage and Facilitate IM Education**

14. There is a statutory duty on the Department under Article 89 of the Education (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 to encourage and facilitate the development of IM education.
15. Further to the Article 89 duty, a 2011 Judicial Review decision determined that the Department may facilitate and encourage the development of the IM sector in ways that it need not for other sectors by taking positive steps or removing obstacles which inhibit the statutory objective.
16. The Article 89 statutory duty does not equate to a duty to grant every proposal brought forward on behalf of an IM school, and must be considered alongside the Department's duty under Article 44 of the Education and Libraries (NI) Order 1986 and under Managing Public Money to ensure effective and efficient use of public funds.
17. In relation to consideration of this DP, due regard has been given to the statutory duty within a framework of ensuring effective planning to meet the future educational requirements for the area, and alongside other relevant issues including:
  - the sustainability of the school in question;
  - the proposal's impact on other schools; and
  - the achievement of area planning objectives to reduce duplication and ensure appropriate provision to meet future demand.

### **CASE FOR CHANGE**

18. A copy of the Case for Change is reproduced at Appendix B. It contains the following rationale for the proposal:
  - To meet current and historical demand for IM places at the school.
  - To align the school's admissions number with the number of pre-school places at the associated Naílscoil (26).
  - To ensure the school's future sustainability and provide an appropriate educational environment (i.e. a seven class base school) with no need for composite classes.
19. The approved admissions number of Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin is currently 21, with the associated Naílscoil Bheann Mhadagáin offering 26 full-time nursery places. DP 537, if approved, would align Bunscoil admissions with nursery unit admissions.

20. Maintaining current approved numbers may result in children enrolled within the statutory nursery unit missing out on a place in the Bunscoil, with the Case for Change asserting that *'it is important to both the school and to prospective parents who have chosen Irish-medium Education for their children, that there are sufficient places to cater for the pre-school cohort.'*

## **STATUTORY DP PROCESSES**

### Pre-publication consultation

21. The Case for Change states that consultation took place with staff and parents at the school, with interested parties asked to indicate a preference between (i) maintaining the *'status quo'*; (ii) *'to increase numbers in present classes'*; or (iii) *'to increase approved enrolment and provision of additional accommodation to provide for the increase in numbers'*. A total of 69 responses were received with 100% of respondents in favour of option (iii). CnaG consulted with 4 alternative IM schools in the immediate area (namely Gaelscoil Éanna, Bunscoil Mhic Reachtin, Gaelscoil An Lonnáin, and Gaelscoil na Bhfál) with positive responses received from each school. The EA also consulted with a further 188 schools considered likely to be affected by the proposal, with no responses received.
22. The EA received correspondence in support of the proposal from CnaG, and this focussed on strengthening IM provision in the area, indicating that approval of the proposal would allow the school to realise its potential to develop into a seven class base school.
23. The EA commentary notes that the proposal is set within the context of the Annual Action Plan, and has provided comments which are reproduced in full at Appendix C. The EA commentary offers support for DP 537 on the basis that there is sufficient local demand to warrant an increase in the admissions and enrolment numbers on the scale proposed.
24. Further detail on pre-consultation outcomes is included at Appendix C.

### Two month statutory objection period

25. DP 537 was published on 16 November 2017 and the statutory two month objection period ended on 16 January 2017. The Department received no letters of support or objection during this period.

## **SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT**

26. The Department's Sustainable Schools Policy (SSP) sets out six criteria supported by quantitative and qualitative indicators which provide the framework for consideration of a school's longer term sustainability. The primary objective of the policy is to ensure that all children and young people receive a high quality

education in schools that are educationally sustainable and financially viable in the long term.

27. An assessment of Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin against the six SSP criteria is set out below.

### **Criterion 1: Quality Educational Experience**

28. The school, and its associated Naiscoil, were most recently inspected by the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) in October 2016. The Inspection Report noted that the standards and achievements of pupils in both literacy and numeracy were considered to be 'good'; with the quality of provision and learning listed as having '*important areas for improvement*'. The report records that most pupils attained good standards in literacy and mathematics, in both Irish and English, however ETI noted inconsistencies in the quality of medium-term planning and subsequent variation in the quality of learning experiences.
29. The overall conclusion reached was that Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin needs 'to address important areas for improvement in the interest of all the learners'. An interim follow-up inspection was scheduled for June 2017. Due to action short of strike undertaken by the teaching unions, this did not go ahead and the ETI was unable to evaluate progress on areas requiring improvement.
30. The ETI commentary on DP 537 (Appendix C) states that '*given the strengths identified within the nursery unit and at KS2 it is envisaged that the school, once a number of contributing contextual factors at the time of the last inspection have settled and the areas for improvement have been addressed, will soon demonstrate the capacity to identify and bring about improvement*'.
31. The Case for Change states that two composite classes are currently in operation within the school, with the Primary 5 cohort split across Primary 4 and Primary 6 classes. Inspection evidence shows that within a composite class of two year groups, it is possible for all children to be catered for effectively and make good progress. There is no evidence from school inspections that children taught in composite classes of two year groups are disadvantaged in any way.
32. Further ETI commentary on this proposal is included at Appendix C.

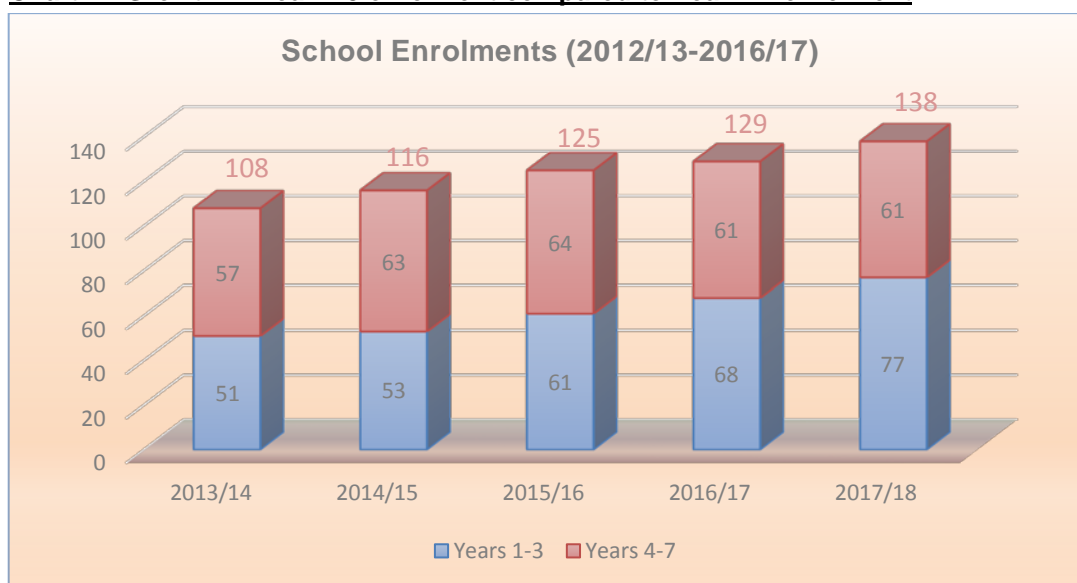
### **Criterion 2: Stable Enrolment Trends**

33. The SSP recommends a minimum enrolment of 140 for a sustainable urban primary school with a suggested minimum of seven classrooms (one for each year group) and no more than two composite year groups in a single classroom.

**Table 5: Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin admissions and enrolment 2013/14 – 2017/18**

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Year 1	21	19	24	28	27
Year 2	13	21	18	23	27
Year 3	17	13	19	17	23
Year 4	19	18	11	18	17
Year 5	20	18	17	12	18
Year 6	6	20	17	15	11
Year 7	12	7	19	16	15
<b>Total pupils (Yr 1 to Yr 7)</b>	<b>108 (incls. SEN)</b>	<b>116 (incls. SEN)</b>	<b>125 (incls. SEN)</b>	<b>129 (incls. SEN)</b>	<b>138 (incls. SEN)</b>
<b>Nursery pupils (full-time)</b>	25	26	30	29	25

**Chart 1: Growth in Year 1-3 enrolment compared to Year 4-7 enrolment**



34. Table 5 illustrates a steady growth in Year 1 admissions across a five year period, from 21 pupils in 2013/14 to 27 in 2017/18.
35. A pattern of year-on-year growth can also be seen across the school's historical enrolments, from a total of 108 pupils in 2013/14 to 138 in 2017/18. The school's 2017/18 enrolment fell just below the recommended minimum enrolment of 140 for a sustainable urban primary school.
36. Chart 1 also illustrates that in recent years the average Year 1-3 enrolment has been higher than at Years 4-7, indicating an increasing primary population. With the pattern of school admissions exhibiting an upwards trend across the last five years and Temporary Variations (TVs) approved in each of the last three years, the school is approaching the upper limit of its approved enrolment number (145).
37. Table 6 illustrates the pattern of TVs approved in three consecutive years, at a level consistent with the admissions number proposed by DP 537 (26).

**Table 6: Approved TVs**

School Year	Approved Admissions Number	Approved Enrolment Number	Temporary Variations Approved (To total of)*	
			Admissions	Enrolment
2017/18	21	145	27	-
2016/17	21	145	28	-
2015/16	21	145	26	-

\*Figures do not include children with statements of special educational need (all year groups) or any children who may have been admitted on appeal (year of admission only)

### **Criterion 3: Sound Financial Position**

38. At 31 March 2017 Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin held a cumulative 2016-17 closing budget surplus of £45,544.
39. The school received a total delegated budget of £567,799 in the 2017-18 financial year. This equates to a per capita figure of £3,594 which compares to an average for all primary schools of £3,001.
40. Small Schools Support funding (currently £38.6k) and Primary Principals Release funding (currently £14k) will reduce as the school's enrolment increases.

### **Criterion 4: Strong Leadership and Management**

41. The June 2016 ETI report notes that senior leadership are highly committed to the well-being of children and staff, and acknowledges the sensitive and supportive management of a number of challenging situations at the school.
42. ETI identifies leadership as an area for improvement, highlighting the need to develop capacity to monitor and evaluate the quality of provision and the standards achieved by all children.
43. Overall, the June 2016 report assessed the quality of leadership and management at the school as having '*important areas for improvement*'.

### **Criterion 5: Accessibility**

44. The Case for Change asserts that most of the school's intake is drawn from the Oldpark, Ardoyne, Ligoniel, Cliftonville and Cavehill areas of Belfast.
45. As illustrated by Map 2, the majority of pupils reside within two miles of the school, and home to school travel times are therefore unlikely to exceed 30 minutes, the recommended maximum travel time for an accessible primary school under SSP.

### **Criterion 6: Strong Links with the Community**

46. The Case for Change highlights a strong association with the wider IM community, and identifies very strong links with the local IM playgroup (Naí-lonad Ard Eoin) and with the local IM post-primary school (Coláiste Feirste).
47. The Case for Change provides a list of local businesses and community organisations that have been involved in school events and fundraising activities, and who continue to engage with the school.
48. ETI acknowledge well-established links between the school and the wider community, with inspection evidence identifying effective links with the parent body. ETI highlights the role of the active parent-teacher association, Cairde Bheann Mhadagáin, in supporting the life and work of the school.

### **Summary of Sustainability Assessment**

49. The school currently falls short of meeting the minimum recommended enrolment for a sustainable urban primary school. However, in recent years the average Year 1-3 enrolment has been higher than at Years 4-7, indicating an increasing primary population. The pattern of school admissions is exhibiting an upwards trend from 21 pupils in 2013/14 to 27 in 2017/18 and TV requests have been approved in each of the last three years. The evidence suggests that the school is on track to achieve a sustainable enrolment in the near future.
50. The June 2016 ETI report identified sustainability issues with regard to both the quality of education delivered and the quality of leadership and management. A follow-up inspection, and the opportunity for ETI to evaluate progress towards improvement, has been affected by action short of strike. In the absence of further assessment ETI advice at Appendix C includes the following comment:

*“given the strengths identified within the nursery unit and at KS2, it is envisaged that the school, once the contributing contextual factors at the time of the last inspection have settled and the areas for improvement have been addressed, will soon demonstrate the capacity to identify and bring about improvement”*

51. There are no immediate concerns over the financial health of the school; there are no issues regarding the school’s accessibility; and there is clear evidence of strong links between the school and the local community.

## **SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

### **Statutory Duty**

52. In assessing this proposal, DE’s statutory duty to encourage and facilitate the development of IM education must be given due consideration. However, DE must also be mindful of its duty under Article 44 of the Education and Libraries



(NI) 1986 Order and under Managing Public Money to ensure effective and efficient use of public funds.

### Impact on other provision

53. As parents make a conscious choice to educate their children through the medium of Irish, it is considered that DP 537, if approved, is unlikely to impact on schools in the Controlled and Catholic Maintained sector, with the exception of Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain, a Controlled IM primary school.
54. The most likely impact of an approval decision would be on alternative IM providers in the area. The Case for Change asserts that alternative IM school principals have expressed support for the proposal, and that there would be no negative impact upon their respective schools. This is evidenced within the Appendices of the Case for Change which include written endorsements from the principals of Gaelscoil Éanna, Bunscoil Mhic Reachtin, Gaelscoil An Lonnáin, and Gaelscoil na Bhfál.
55. Table 7 provides admissions and enrolment information for Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin and the nearest alternative IM primary schools.

**Table 7: Alternative IM schools – admissions and enrolment**

	Approved Numbers 2017/18		2012/13		2013/14		2014/15		2015/16		2016/17		2017/18	
	Adm	Enrol	Y1	Total	Y1	Total	Y1	Total	Y1	Total	Y1	Total	Y1	Total
<b>Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>138</b>
Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain	20	87	10	61	10	61	18	82	15	84	18	92	17	99
Gaelscoil an Lonnain	20	71	9	44	13	49	10	51	11	54	11	60	9	62
Scoil an Droichid	21	145	22	120	24	131	23	125	22	128	23	137	28	147
Gaelscoil na Bhfal	28	290	27	162	26	159	27	158	25	162	29	167	26	172
Bunscoil an tSleibhe Dhuibh	29	203	21	146	28	153	28	157	22	159	29	162	28	174
Gaelscoil na Mona	21	145	15	92	21	94	16	93	18	102	15	101	16	107
Gaelscoil Eanna	29	205	34	104	32	136	28	152	25	158	25	174	27	185
Bunscoil Phobal Feirste	58	406	39	235	43	242	44	255	45	263	57	287	51	303
Scoil na Fuiseoige	26	145	22	113	23	115	18	125	22	127	27	132	21	141
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>1842</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>1181</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>1248</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>1314</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>1362</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>1441</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>1528</b>

Numbers are sourced from the annual school census, and include pupils with a statement of special educational needs

56. In relation to the ten IM schools listed it is noted that:

- In 2017/18, the most recent year for which verified enrolment data is available, there were 1,842 approved pupil places available, of which 273 were at Year 1. A total of 1,528 pupils were enrolled, with 250 in Year 1.
- In 2017/18 there were a total of 373 available places across these ten schools, approximately 20% of the total number of approved places. Four of the schools were under the SSP threshold of either 140 or 105 pupils for an urban or rural primary school respectively.
- In 2017/18 eight of the ten schools were undersubscribed with first preference applications for a Year 1 place. The number of Year 1 applications accepted for 273 places at the end of the formal process was 243. This was seven less than the final recorded number of pupils enrolled across Year 1 (250), as recorded by the school census.
- While some IM schools continue to fall short of meeting the minimum recommended enrolment for a sustainable urban primary school, there is also evidence of year-on-year sectoral growth across this area.

### **Catchment Areas**

57. Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin draws pupils from its immediate surroundings as well as the arterial Antrim Road route towards the Glengormley and Carnmoney areas. As evidenced by Map 2, it does not draw pupils from the west, south or east Belfast areas and therefore the impact of this proposal on IM primary provision in those particular areas is likely to be negligible.

58. Map 2 illustrates that Gaelscoil Eanna and Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain have pupil catchment areas that overlap with Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin, and these schools are examined more closely for possible impact.

### **Gaelscoil Eanna**

59. Gaelscoil Eanna is located in Glengormley, approximately 4.5 miles from Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin.

60. The school has approved admissions and enrolment numbers of 29 and 205 respectively. Its 2017/18 enrolment of 185 pupils (including seven pupils with statements of special educational needs) exceeded the recommended minimum enrolment of 105 pupils for a sustainable rural primary school, and the school had 27 available places. The school's enrolment is increasing (when compared to 104 pupils enrolled in 2012/13). While it is marginally undersubscribed at Year 1, there is an upwards trend in applications and 2017/18 figures show that the school accepted 27 applications for 29 places.

61. Due to the school's sustainable enrolment and distance from Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin, it is considered unlikely that DP 537 would impact significantly on Gaelscoil Éanna, if approved.

*Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain*

62. Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain is a Controlled IM school located about 1.5 miles from Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin. There is significant overlap between their respective pupil catchment areas.

63. Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain has approved admissions and enrolment numbers of 20 and 87 respectively. The school's 2017/18 enrolment of 99 pupils was higher than its approved enrolment number (87) and represents an increase of 7 pupils from the previous year. Since 2016/17 the school has been operating at capacity with no available places.

64. At the end of the 2017/18 admissions process the school was undersubscribed at Year 1 having accepted a total of 17 applications for 20 places. This level of Year 1 intake is similar to that in previous years.

65. Due to the steady pattern of Year 1 intakes and an overall enrolment in excess of its approved number, it is considered unlikely that DP 537, if approved, would impact significantly on Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain.

**Demand for Places at Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin**

66. There is evidence of demand at Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin through the level of first preference applications to the school in each of the last three years, and the resultant TV requests that have been approved.

67. Table 8 details the number of first preference applications received across a five year period, with demand for places peaking in 2016/17. While the most recent data indicates a decrease in first preference applications, demand for a Year 1 place has consistently exceeded the school's current approved admissions number (21) since 2015/16.

**Table 8: Y1 Intakes (EA position at conclusion of admissions process)**

	<b>Total 1st Prefs. Applications</b>	<b>Total Applications Received</b>
2017/18	29	29
2016/17	35	35
2015/16	26	27
2014/15	20	20
2013/14	23	23

68. In instances where a school receives more applications for admission than it has places available it can request a TV to its admissions and enrolment number from the Department. The Department may approve TVs to respond to particular

demographic pressures in an area in a particular year. Table 9 provides evidence of TV approvals in three consecutive years from 2015/16.

**Table 9: TV Approvals**

School Year	Approved Admissions Number	Approved Enrolment Number	Temporary Variations Approved (To total of)*	
			Admissions	Enrolment
2017/18	21	145	27	-
2016/17	21	145	28	-
2015/16	21	145	26	-
2014/15	21	145	-	-
2013/14	25	174	-	-

\*Figures do not include statemented children (all year groups) or any children who may have been admitted on appeal (year of admission only).

69. The approval of TVs should not be regarded as a reliable indicator of future admissions. TVs are not granted to address anticipation of demand, nor a long-term desire to increase the size of a school within an area.
70. While there is evidence of an increase in demand for P1 places at Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin, the school is yet to reach the upper limit of its approved enrolment number. The Case for Change anticipates that the school will exceed its approved enrolment number (145) from 2018/19, and provides the following projections as evidence of that assertion:

**Table 10: Anticipated Enrolment at Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin**

Year	Nursery	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	Total
2015/16	30	24	18	19	11	17	17	19	125
2016/17	29	28	24	17	19	11	16	16	131
2017/18	28	28	28	24	17	19	11	16	143
2018/19	28	28	28	28	24	17	19	11	155
2019/20	28	28	28	28	28	24	17	19	172
2020/21	28	28	28	28	28	28	24	17	181
2021/22	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	24	192

71. Table 10 assumes that the school will attract an average of 28 pupils per year from the associated Naiscoil. It is noted that this figure both (i) exceeds the published intent of the DP for 26 places, and (ii) has only been reached once within the last five years (in 2016/17, as evidenced in Table 9). While this projection therefore appears slightly aspirational, moderating it to align with the published figure of 26 would not change the likelihood of the school exceeding its current approved enrolment number of 145 by the 2018/19 school year (eg. using the figure of 26 would lead to a projection of 149 pupils in 2018/19, with a long-term enrolment of 182).

## **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

### **Accommodation**

72. The school's current approved enrolment number is at the upper limit of the five class-base range, although in practice the school is currently operating across six classes, with the additional class housed in a resource area described within the Case for Change as *'effectively a large space at the end of a corridor'*.
73. This proposal seeks to increase the approved enrolment number to 182 pupils, which falls within the seven class-base range. The school moved into new build accommodation in late 2015 which was originally designed to allow for expansion from a five to seven class base.
74. Should the DP be approved, options to provide additional accommodation to include a brick build extension would be considered further. The Case for Change proposes that an additional double modular classroom is installed on site. The cost for provision of one double mobile would be in the region of £180-£200k, and a brick build solution would cost a similar amount.
75. Lead in times for provision of modular accommodation would be in the region of twelve months from submission of a minor works application to completion on site, with the lead in time for provision of a brick build extension in the region of two years. Costs and timescales may vary according to ground conditions and planning considerations.

### **Staffing**

76. The Case for Change highlights the impact of moving to a seven class base in terms of the educational benefit to pupils, but does not indicate if this will lead to increased staffing costs.
77. Should this proposal be approved, the removal of composite classes is likely to involve additional staffing costs as the class-base increases. The cost to the school based on the current average annual primary school teacher salary (inclusive of employer costs) would be approximately £51k per teacher. Any additional staffing costs would be met by the school from their delegated budget.

### **Links to Other Proposals**

78. The Case for Change states that there is a Minor Works Application submitted in respect of Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin, but makes no reference to any DPs pertinent to the configuration of IM provision in this area.
79. However, the EA's Annual Action Plan for April 2017-March 2018 includes an action relating to nearby Gaelscoil na bhFál, which proposes to decrease the admissions and enrolment numbers at this school. A DP to give effect to this change was published on 18 January 2018 and is currently being considered by

the Department. If approved, it will go some way to addressing the surplus of available IM places in the Belfast area evident from an examination of Table 7, which shows 1,842 approved IM places for 2017/18 compared to a figure of 1,528 pupils enrolled.

## **CONCLUSION**

80. Reconciling the admissions number of the Bunscoil (21) with the number of approved places at the Naíscoil (26) would satisfy a parental expectation that a child enrolled in a statutory nursery unit should be able to progress seamlessly to the host primary school.
81. Should DP 537 be approved, the subsequent provision of additional accommodation (whether modular or permanent) would allow the school to grow to a seven-class base as recommended for all primary schools under the SSP. It would also remove reliance on composite year-groups, consistent with the SSP and supported by ETI evidence.
82. There is evidence of growing demand for places at Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin. Although the school is currently below the minimum recommended enrolment of 140 for a sustainable urban primary school, the recent pattern of growth allied to projected extraction rates from the associated Naíscoil suggest that the school should be able to achieve a sustainable enrolment by 2018/19.
83. While Table 7 provides evidence of growth at this school, and wider sectoral growth, it remains a concern for the Department that there is an over-supply of IM places generally in the wider area. While a recently published DP seeks in part to address this and which is still subject to due process, more strategic planning of IM provision is required rather than the bringing forward of proposals for individual schools that do not offer a joined-up area solution.
84. In summary, there is evidence of growth in demand for places at the school, the evidence does not point to any detrimental impact on neighbouring IM providers, nor has there been any visible opposition to the proposal throughout this process. The proposal appears proportionate in scale and the Department's Irish Medium and Integrated Education Team has expressed the view that "the statutory duty has been appropriately considered and addressed."

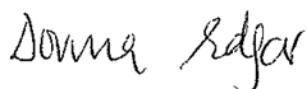
## **RECOMMENDATION**

85. On balance, and taking account of the Department's statutory duty and the evidence outlined in this submission, it is recommended that you:

- (iii) Approve DP 537 – ‘Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin will increase its admissions and enrolment numbers from 21 to 26 and 145 to 182 respectively, with effect from 1 September 2018, or soon as possible thereafter’. The increase to 182 will be phased and DE will work closely with the EA and the school in this regard; and
- (iv) Agree that this submission, with appropriate redactions, can be published on the Department’s website once the school and EA have been informed.

**Appendices:**

Appendix A	Copy of Published DP 537
Appendix B	Case for Change
Appendix C	ETI Commentary
Appendix D	DE Policy Team Inputs
Appendix E	Annual Area Profile



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## APPENDIX A: COPY OF PUBLISHED DP 537

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### EDUCATION AUTHORITY

#### DRAFT DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL NO 537

#### BUNSCOIL BHEANN MHADAGÁIN

Notice is hereby given that a Proposal under Article 14 of the Education and Libraries (NI) Order 1986 has been submitted to the Education Authority by the Board of Governors of Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin, to the effect that:

**Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin will increase admissions and enrolment numbers from 21 to 28 and 145 to 182 respectively, with effect from 1 September 2018, or as soon as possible thereafter.**

A copy of this Proposal and Case for Change may be inspected at the offices of the Education Authority, 40 Academy Street, Belfast, BT1 2NQ, between the hours of 8.30 and 4.45 pm and [www.eani.org.uk](http://www.eani.org.uk) (under Schools).

Any objections to this Proposal should be lodged with the Area Planning Policy Team, Department of Education, Rathgael House, Balloo Road, Bangor, Co Down, BT19 7PR or emailed to [dps@education-ni.gov.uk](mailto:dps@education-ni.gov.uk) within two months of the date of publication of this notice.

The Department of Education and the Education Authority operate a regime of openness under the Freedom of Information Act. Letters of objection and information supplied to the Department of Education and the Education Authority may be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, if requested. (A fee may be charged for supplying this information).

**Gavin Boyd**  
**Chief Executive**



## APPENDIX B: CASE FOR CHANGE - DP 537

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### CASE FOR CHANGE – Supporting Information

#### SUMMARY / OVERVIEW

BOARD AREA	Education Authority (Belfast)
DP NUMBER	DP 537
PROPOSER	Máire Uí Éigeartaigh, Principal Maura Crawford, Chairperson of Board of Governors 02890747184 mhegarty518@c2kni.net
SCHOOL(S) NAME	Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin
SCHOOL REFERENCE	104-6596
TYPE	Primary
MANAGEMENT	Irish-medium
DP PUBLICATION DATE	Week commencing 13 November 2017
PROPOSAL	The Board of Governors of Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin proposes to increase its approved enrolment from 145 to 182. This will result in the school's Admission Number increasing from 21 to 26 with effect from 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2018 or as soon as possible thereafter.

#### STATUTORY CONSULTATION

BY THE PROPOSER	I confirm that the school, Board of Governors, Staff and Parents of Pupils were consulted on 29/09/16 (See Appendices).  SIGNED: <i>Maura Crawford</i> DATE: 21/12/16.
BY THE BOARD	I confirm that the schools which the Board consider might be impacted by this proposal were consulted on 15 September 2017.  SIGNED: <i>John Collings</i> DATE: 10/11/17

#### ASSOCIATED PROPOSALS

There is currently a Minor Works Application submitted to the Estates' Operation Team by Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin.

## DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL FOR **BUNSCOIL BHEANN MHADAGÁIN**

### **1. BACKGROUND**

#### **1.1 *Brief Description of the School***

Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin is a co-educational Irish-medium primary school located in the Cliftonville Road area of North Belfast. It was established in 1994 and achieved grant-aided status in 1997. It is an inter-denominational school. Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin was founded in an old hall belonging to the Church of Ireland called Saint Silis's Hall – the first Irish-medium primary in North Belfast. Bunscoil Cnoc na hUaimhe, as it was then called, was opened in September 1994 with 10 pupils. Since then, the school has grown to over 160 children in the Bunscoil and the attached-Nursery unit which opened within the school in Sept. 2012. A purpose-built building opened for Naíscóil Bheann Mhadagáin in 2014 and, subsequently, a new 5-classroom school building for the Bunscoil in 2015 in its current location.

#### **1.2 *Location and Current Accommodation***

Both Bunscoil and Naíscóil Bheann Mhadagáin are located at 156 Cliftonville Road, Belfast, BT14 6LP. Having moved into a new-build at the end of 2015, Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin currently has 5 classes housed in purpose-built classrooms and a further class housed in a resource area.

#### **1.3 *Date of Implementation***

It is proposed to increase its Approved Enrolment from 145 to 182. This will result in the school's Admission Number increasing from 21 to 26 with effect from 1st September 2018 or as soon as possible thereafter.

#### **1.4 *Existing Capital Proposals/Minor Works Applications***

In May 2016, a Minor Works Application was submitted to the EOT for a multi-purpose room and a library.

#### **1.5 *Compliance with 'SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE: A POLICY FOR SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS'***

##### **1.5.1 *Quality Educational Experience***

Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin was last inspected by ETI in January 2010 and the quality of education provided was found to be *Good*. The ETI Report informs that *"the focused inspection in April 2007 highlighted strengths in the good working relationships and the high levels of motivation and interest of the children, the quality of teaching in the majority of lessons, and the opportunities for the children to contribute to decision making and the range of extra-curricular activities."* The ETI report also stated the *"school has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision"*.

There is currently a whole range of extra-curricular programmes available to the pupils at the school. These range from Breakfast and Homework Clubs, to various Sports activities (including Football, Soccer and Running) to Art, Music and Drama.

### 1.5.2 Stable Enrolment Trends

The Primary 1 – 7 Enrolment has increased steadily over the last 5 years, from 104 pupils in 2012/13 to 131 pupils in the current academic year (2016/17) – this represents a growth of around 26% in this period. A pattern of increasing enrolment is clearly reflected by comparing Primary 1 – 3 enrolments (69 pupils) with the Primary 5 – 7 enrolments (43 pupils).

### 1.5.3 Sound Financial Position

The table demonstrates that school spending in the last financial year was marginally outside of the 5% difference allowed by the department but that sufficient action has been taken to correct this and bring costs back in line with the budget allocation. It should be noted that during this period Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin moved site into a new build and additional costs were accrued as a result of the upheaval.

Table A				
Budget Spending for Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin				
Year	Total Resources (including previous year's carryover)	Total Net Expenditure	Carryover	% Carryover of Total Resources
2015-16	£517,773	£547,476	-£29,702	-5.7%

### 1.5.4 Strong Leadership and Management by Board of Governors and Principals

The Governors and Principal of Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin have demonstrated their ability to lead the school effectively and deliver high quality provision. School admissions and enrolment continue to grow healthily and the school has recently moved into a new build. In recent years, the school has also successfully applied for a statutory Nursery Unit and now in place, the NU is contributing strongly to the enrolments and school life.

As the January 2010 ETI Follow-Up visit notes:

- *“effective engagement by the staff, led well by the Principal, in a range of professional development activities*
- *the school's development of a range of policies and procedures that reflects the guidance issued by DE, in particular the vetting of teachers and the Code of Conduct;*
- *the steady improvement in the standards achieved by the children in literacy;*
- *The follow-up inspection has identified some aspects of the areas for improvement still to be addressed but equally the organisation has demonstrated the capacity to address these.”*

### **1.5.5 Accessibility**

The school is readily accessible to families in North Belfast, specifically to those in the Oldpark, Ardoyne, Ligoneil, Cliftonville and Cavehill areas – where the vast majority of pupils come from.

### **1.5.6 Strong Links with the Community**

There are very strong links established with the local Irish-medium playgroup (Naí-lonad Ard Eoin), which contributes a significant amount of children towards the Nursery intake and with the local Irish-medium Post-Primary, Coláiste Feirste. The Board of Governors has developed a vision for the promotion of the Irish language in the area; classes for adults and there is a local Irish-medium youth club frequented both by pupils from the local primary and post-primary schools.

The school has a strong relationship with local businesses and many contribute to school events and fundraising activities. Amongst the other groups with whom the school engages, are:

- Local schools, including Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain and Cliftonville Integrated PS
- Cairde Bheann Mhadagáin – A Parents’ Group which organises fundraising/events
- Local GAA clubs – Ard Eoin Ciceaim CLG & Cumann an Phiarsaigh CLG
- Cumann Cultúrtha Mhic Reachtain – Cultural group which promotes Irish language and culture

## **2. RATIONALE FOR CHANGE**

### **2.1 Reason for Change**

The desired outcome of the proposal is to increase the total enrolment of the school and, consequently, to increase the admissions intake to bring them into line with the current and historical demand for places in order to provide parents and their children with the optimum start to their education. This development proposal also falls in line with:

- The obligations arising from the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and,
- The statutory duty to encourage and facilitate Irish medium education (Article 89, Education (NI) Order 1998)

Should this proposal be approved, it would ensure that Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin is better prepared for a future as a 7 class-base school and provide the school with the scope to fulfil its potential. At the time of the proposed implementation date, it is envisaged that the numbers will have exceeded the current capacity of 145 and as such, the cramped conditions would have an adverse impact upon the educational experience of the pupils.

Additionally, the approval of this development proposal would bring the school's Primary 1 Admissions (currently 21) into line with the current Admissions Number (26) of the nursery unit within Bunscoil Bheanna Mhadagáin. It is important to both the school and to prospective parents who have chosen Irish-medium Education for their children, that there are sufficient places to cater for the pre-school cohort.

Failure to reconcile the admissions numbers of both the Naíscoil and Bunscoil could potentially have a detrimental effect upon primary intake for the school in future as there is a reasonable expectation amongst parents that a child in a statutory nursery should get a place within the adjoining primary school.

There are 3 apparent options available to the school; status quo, to increase numbers in present classes, or to increase approved enrolment and provision of additional accommodation to provide for the increase in numbers. The various options are considered as follows:

- *Status quo* – The only advantage of this option is that there is no capital expense. However, as the current enrolment and pattern of increasing enrolment clearly demonstrates, this option is not viable as the school will have outgrown its current capacity and indeed, a class is currently already being taught in a resource area (which is, essentially, an enlarged corridor space).
- *Increase numbers in classes* – This option would perhaps be viable if the school had six classrooms. However, as the Primary 5 cohort is currently split across Primary 4 and Primary 6 classes and there are no further teaching spaces available, this option is simply impractical. Not only would this option require an increase in the number of composite classes (which goes against Sustainable Schools Policy in regards to Quality Education), but it would only ever be possible in this instance by mixing non-adjacent year groups which would be detrimental to the year groups concerned.
- *Increase approved enrolment and additional accommodation* – The implementation of this option would see the school allowed the space to grow into a seven class-base school – the ideal size for a primary school as outlined in the Sustainable Schools Policy (Para. 4.4). The approval of this proposal would also fall in line with the Department's duty to encourage and facilitate IME and, more specifically, by "*removing obstacles which inhibit the statutory objective*" (Justice Treacy, Judicial Review of McKee V Department of Education 2011) i.e. the current Approved Enrolment and Admission Number may restrict the long-term growth of the school. The disadvantage of this option is the financial impact that it brings, however, it should be noted that as the school continues to grow, these costs will be unavoidable if the Department is to fulfil its duty in providing for the actual enrolment and the subsequent teaching space required thereof.

## 2.2 Area Planning Impact

The enrolment has increased steadily from 104 pupils in 2012/13 to 131 pupils in the current academic year (growth of around 26%) and Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin is anticipated to exceed the minimum Urban Enrolment Threshold (140 pupils) at the start of the next academic year. If current enrolments are sustained, as expected, the school's enrolment should grow steadily to around 190 (see Table B) – notwithstanding any additional growth. This demonstrates the school's ambitions not only to meet but exceed the minimum enrolment threshold and realise the aims of the Sustainable Schools Policy.

	Nursery Unit	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total	W/Out Nursery Unit
2015/16	30	24	18	19	11	17	17	19	155	125
2016/17	29	28	24	17	19	11	16	16	160	131
2017/18	28	28	28	24	17	19	11	16	169	143
2018/19	28	28	28	28	24	17	19	11	179	155
2019/20	28	28	28	28	28	24	17	19	194	172
2020/21	28	28	28	28	28	28	24	17	201	181
2021/22	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	24	210	192

As regards to impact upon other provision, there are 3 other Irish-medium primary providers within a 2-mile radius (maximum statutory walking distance) of the school. Both Gaelscoil na bhFál and Gaelscoil an Lonnáin are located in the West of the city, and as such, serve a different geographical area and are fully supportive of this proposal (Evidence of support included in Appendix D). Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain, the sole controlled Irish-medium provider in Belfast, is located over a mile away from the school and predominantly, serves the communities of the New Lodge, North Queen St., and Carrick Hill. Enrolments at both Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin and Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain have been growing steadily over the past 5 years, as illustrated in Table C, and this growth is anticipated to continue over the coming years.

	Historic Enrolments					Projected Enrolments		
	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20
BS Bheann Mhadagáin	104	108	116	125	131	141	151	166
BS Mhic Reachtain	61	61	82	84	93	99	107	111
<b>Total</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>277</b>
Annual Growth	-	2.42%	17.16%	5.56%	7.18%	7.14%	7.50%	7.36%
Compound Growth	-	2.42%	20.00%	26.67%	35.76%	45.45%	56.36%	67.88%

There is clear local demand for IME provision in North Belfast and this demand has manifested itself in a growth in numbers enrolled of over 35% in the last five years. When considered across the whole of North Belfast, this figure is higher still, at nearly 48% growth in numbers over five years, as demonstrated in Table D.

<b>Historic &amp; Anticipated Enrolment at North Belfast Gaelscoileanna</b>								
	<b>Historic Enrolments</b>					<b>Projected Enrolments</b>		
	<b>12/13</b>	<b>13/14</b>	<b>14/15</b>	<b>15/16</b>	<b>16/17</b>	<b>17/18</b>	<b>18/19</b>	<b>19/20</b>
BS Bheann Mhadagáin	104	108	116	125	131	141	151	166
BS Mhic Reachtain	61	61	82	84	93	99	107	111
GS Éanna	104	136	152	158	174	185	191	184
<b>Total</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>461</b>
Annual Growth	-	13.38%	14.75%	4.86%	8.45%	6.78%	5.65%	2.67%
Compound Growth	-	13.38%	30.11%	36.43%	47.96%	57.99%	66.91%	71.38%

Furthermore, the number of unfilled places within the school and Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain has fallen dramatically over a period of years; when the Primary Area Plan was published in June 2014, it stated that *“there are 92 unfilled places between the 2 Irish Medium schools in North Belfast”* and this represented around 35% of places within the schools. As evidenced in Table E, in the current academic year (2016/17) this number has now fallen to 8 unfilled places and represents less than 2% of the places within the schools.

<b>Unfilled Places in Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin &amp; Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain</b>				
<b>2013/14</b>	<b>Approved Enrolment</b>	<b>Actual Enrolment</b>	<b>Unfilled Places</b>	<b>Unfilled Places (%)</b>
BS Bheann Mhadagáin	174	108	66	37.93%
BS Mhic Reachtain	87	61	26	29.89%
<b>Total</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>35.25%</b>
<b>2016/17</b>	<b>Approved Enrolment</b>	<b>Actual Enrolment</b>	<b>Unfilled Places</b>	<b>Unfilled Places (%)</b>
BS Bheann Mhadagáin	145	131	14	9.66%
BS Mhic Reachtain	87	93	-6	-6.90%
<b>Total</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1.38%</b>

Therefore, there is no doubt that demand for IME is growing in North Belfast and it is upon this basis that this proposal is based. In the next school year, Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin is expected to have an intake barely within its current enrolment bracket (an estimated 141 pupils within the current 145 Approved Enrolment). In the current academic year, Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain has already exceeded its Approved Enrolment of 87 pupils with an intake of 93 pupils for the 2016/17 year.

The long-term benefits of this proposal would be recognised across three levels of provision. With the base nursery places and primary 1 intake reconciled, this would remove a potentially off-putting factor for prospective parents. An increase in the approved admissions for primary provision would result in greater numbers leaving the IM Sector at the end of Primary 7 and consequently, adding to the potential pool of pupils for IM post-primary provision in Belfast. The increased enrolment will help in continuing to contribute to the long-term viability of the local post-primary IM provider.

### **3. EDUCATIONAL IMPACT**

There are very clear educational benefits arising from the approval of this proposal. An increase in the Approved Enrolment would allow the school to continue to grow and that increase actual enrolment would then entitle the school to additional accommodation. Currently, the pupils are split into 6 classes with 5 of these classes being housed in fit-for-purpose classrooms. One of the classes, however, is housed in a resource area which is effectively a large space at the end of a corridor. As a direct result of the lack of teaching space, there are currently two composite classes within the school. The increase in Approved Enrolment and Admissions and additional accommodation would have several immediate impacts upon the educational experience of the children.

Firstly, the class which is currently occupying the resource area would now be taught within an appropriate space, an environment more conducive to effective learning and without the distractions that could arise from the corridor currently connected to the resource area.

Secondly, the additional classrooms would allow the school to organise the classrooms in single-year groupings and to do away with composite classes. As mentioned in the Sustainable Schools Policy (Para. 4.4.), a seven-class base is the ideal size for a primary school. This would allow the teachers in each respective class to focus solely upon that class and not have constantly prepare for two separate groupings, specific curricula and lesson plans.

Thirdly, the school would now be able to utilise the resource area which is currently unavailable to them. As noted by ETI in their comments on Development Proposal 267:

*“In an Irish-medium school, a library/resource area is of particular importance to allow children in small groupings to undertake research through the medium of the English Language (and the Irish Language) and discuss and write about it in the Irish Language (or the English Language). This provides a significant boost to the development of their abilities to operate bilingually and to the promotion of high quality work in both languages.”*

### **4. STATISTICAL INFORMATION**

#### ***4.1 School Enrolment***

Table F illustrates the current and historical enrolments at Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin. In the last 5 years, there has been a steady increase in the actual enrolments each year and this represents a growth of over 25% in the number of pupils attending Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin. As a result of the increasing enrolment at the school, the number of unfilled places has dropped to 14 from 66 just three years ago. This means that just over 90% of places in the school are filled and this figure is expected to rise to 97% of places filled in the next academic year (2017/18). It should also be noted that there is a pattern of increasing enrolment at the school, clearly reflected by comparing Primary 1 – 3 enrolments (69 pupils) with the Primary 5 – 7 enrolments (43 pupils).



Table F			
Current and Historical Enrolment at Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin			
Year	Approved Enrolment	Actual Enrolment	Unfilled Places
2012/13	174	104	70
2013-14	174	108	66
2014-15	145	118	27
2015-16	145	125	20
2016-17	145	131	14

#### 4.2 School Admissions

Table G illustrates admissions for Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin over a four-year period. The table shows that a temporary variation (TV) has been required for the last 2 years and a further application for TV is expected for the 2017/18 academic year. With the large number of pupils currently enrolled in the nursery unit, Naíscoil Bheann Mhadagáin, coupled with the feeder playgroup (Naí-lonad Ard Eoin) for the nursery doubling its provision this year, there is every indication that these strong enrolment numbers will be sustained and exert further pressure on the school with its current limited admissions number.

Table G				
Current and Historical Admissions at Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin				
Year	Total Preferences Considered	Admitted	Approved Admission Number	Temporary Variation Approved (i.e. for one year only)
2013-14	23	23	26	-
2014-15	21	21	21	-
2015-16	26	24	21	Yes
2016-17	35	28	21	Yes

#### 4.3 Alternative Schools

There are a total of 4 IME Primary providers within a 2-mile radius (as the crow flies) of Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin. Both Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin and Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain have few empty places (indeed, Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain currently exceeds its Approved Enrolment) and Gaelscoil an Lonnáin and Gaelscoil na bhFál each serves a different geographical area of the city. There would be no adverse effect upon the other IM Pre-school providers as the approval of this proposal would not increase current places but merely, recognise and conciliate the evidenced demand over the last number of years.

Table H			
2016/17 Local Irish-medium Primary 1 Provision			
REF	School Name	Distance by Road (Miles)	P1
104-6596	Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin	-	28
101-6647	Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain	1.3	19

104-6672	Gaelscoil an Lonnain	2.1	11
104-6571	Gaelscoil na bhFál	2.6	29
		<b>Total</b>	<b>69</b>

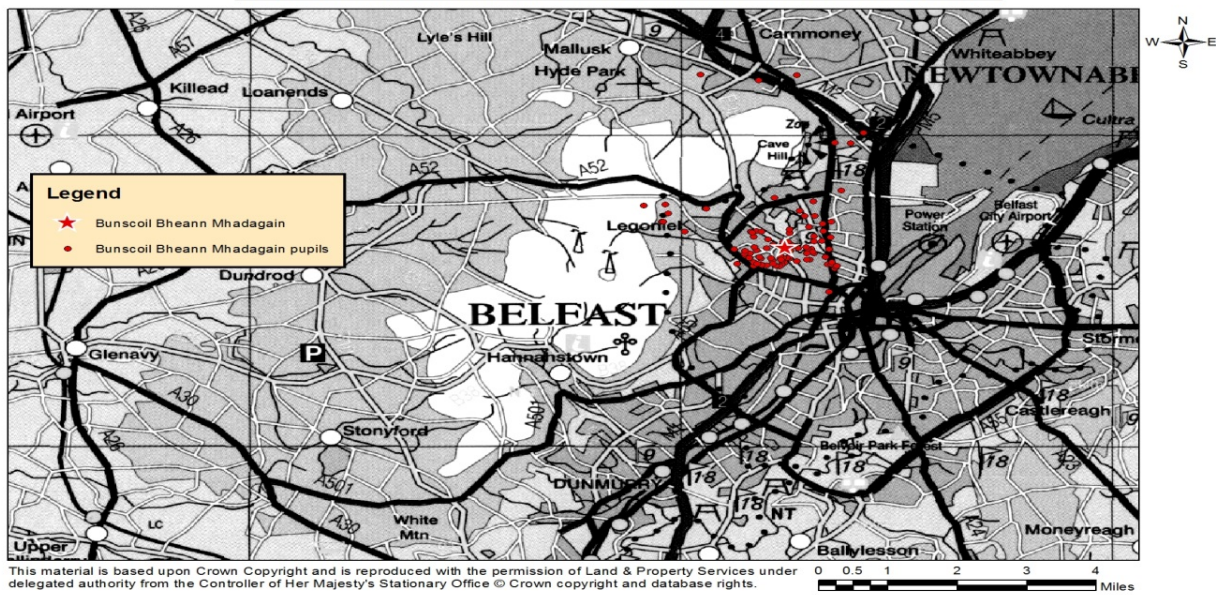
#### 4.4 Mapping

The following maps show the pupil distribution for the pupils of Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin and the alternative IM providers within a two-mile radius. The maps indicate that the vast majority of pupils attending Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin come from the Cliftonville, Cavehill, Oldpark and Ardoyne areas of North Belfast. Alternatively, Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain draws most of their pupils from the lower Antrim Road, New Lodge, North Queen St and Carrick Hill areas.

The maps also show that, as previously stated, both Gaelscoil an Lonnáin and Gaelscoil na bhFál serve a separate geographical area, namely the lowers Falls and Beechmount, and that the vast majority of their pupils come from West Belfast.

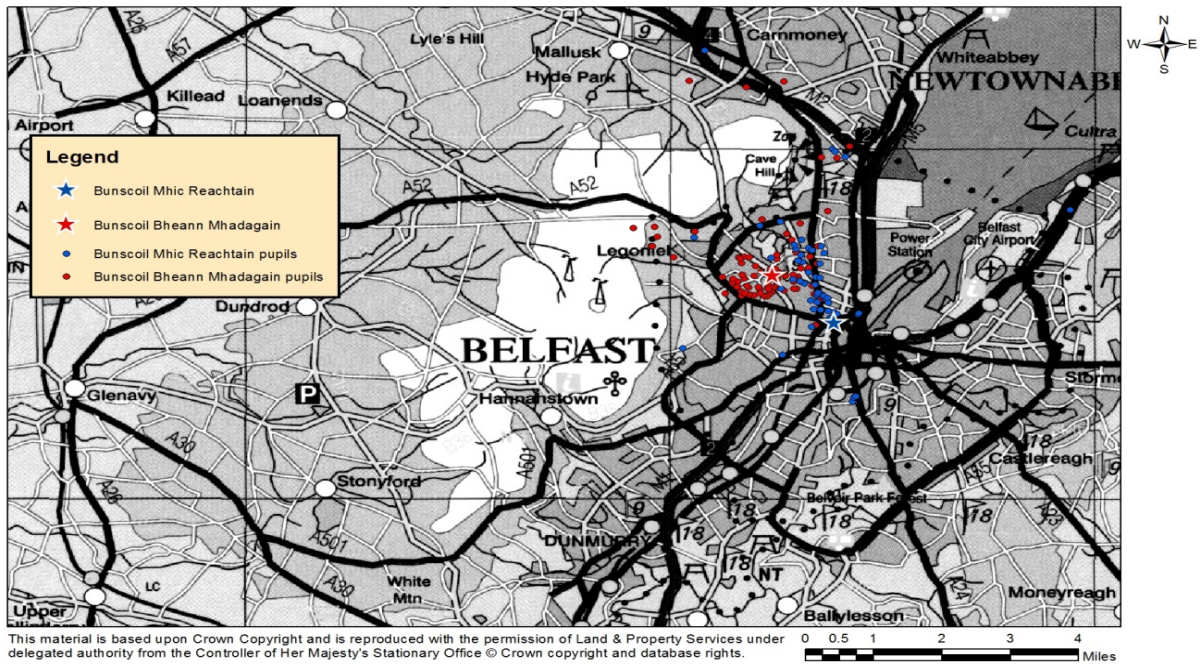
##### 4.4.1 Location of School

**Pupil Distribution around Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin, 2015/16**



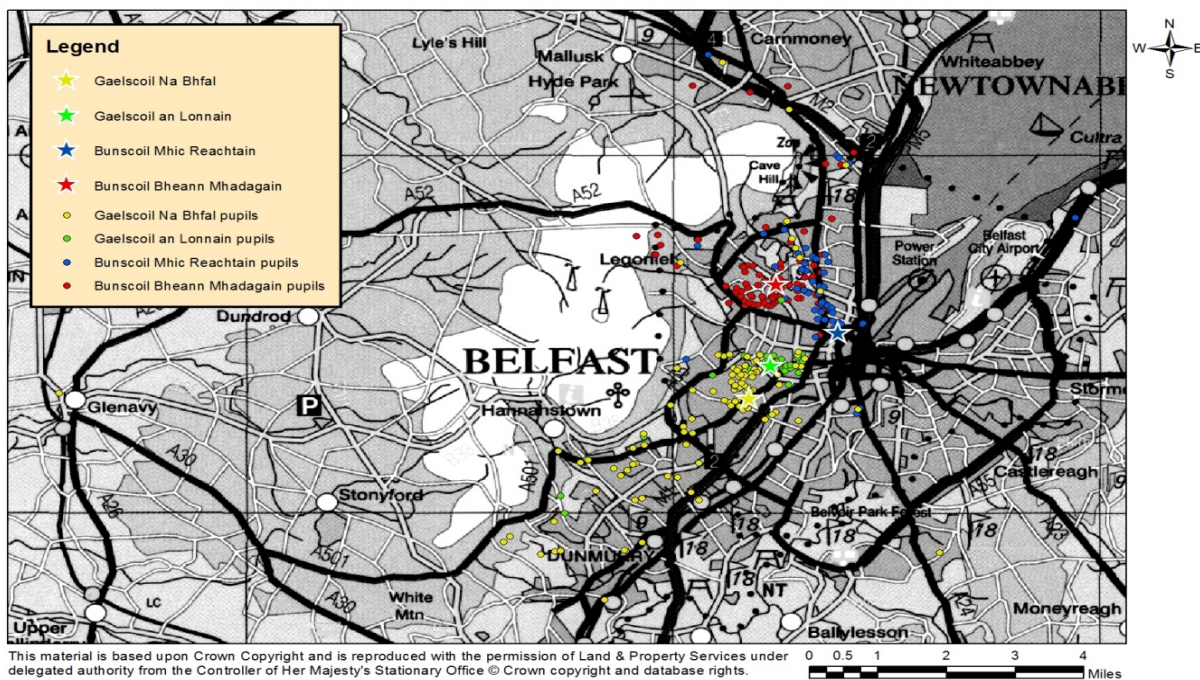
#### 4.4.2 Distribution of Pupils

**Pupil Distribution around Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin, 2015/16**



#### 4.4.3 Alternative Provision

**Pupil Distribution around Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin, 2015/16**



### 5. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

#### 5.1 Outline all actions required to deliver the proposal if approved.

If the proposal is approved, there would be no significant actions required.

#### 5.2 Outline how the Proposal will affect the management of the school

This proposal will have no effect upon the management of the school as it is only consolidation of the enrolment over the past few years.

**5.3 *How will the school/BOG ensure that the education of the children is protected during the proposed change?***

If the proposal is approved, there would be no detrimental effect to the children within the school. Indeed, the long-term effects of the proposal will only enhance the educational experience of the children.

**6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

**6.1 *Finance – Budget Position, Impact upon budget, Cost of Proposal***

As the proposal deals with an adjustment to the school's Approved Enrolment and Admissions, there would be minimal impact upon the Aggregated Schools' Budget.

**6.2 *Staffing***

Any additional staffing costs will be paid for through the school's LMS annual budget allocation.

**6.3 *Transport***

There are no additional transport concerns.

**6.4 *Accommodation***

The cost of a modular-double classroom is approximately £140,000.

**7. STATUTORY CONSULTATION**

**Proposer**

The parents of pupils attending Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin were invited to attend an information session on 29.09.16 to discuss the proposed change. The various options were explained and a questionnaire was distributed with each of the three options outlined in Section 2.1 in order to gauge support. A total of 69 parents responded and the responses were 100% in favour of proceeding with option 3 (increase approved enrolment).

The staff were also consulted on 13.09.16 and their support for the proposal was equally unanimous (see Appendix B).

In compliance with the advice set out within the Departmental guidelines, Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta, acting on behalf of Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin, contacted the alternative IM primary schools within a 2 mile radius of the schools (and Gaelscoil Éanna, which is located in Glengormley) which could possibly be affected by the approval of this Development Proposal. Each Principal responded positively to express their support for

the proposal and indicated that they did not foresee any possible negative impact upon their respective schools.

### **Education Authority**

On 15 September 2017 the Education Authority wrote to 188 schools - 157 in the Belfast District Council area and 31 in Antrim and Newtownabbey Council area. There were no replies.

Correspondence had been received from Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta in support of the development proposal which indicated that the proposal was consistent with Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta's Irish Medium Area Plan. The proposal would allow the school to realise its potential to develop into a seven class base school and indicated that an increase in the admissions number would contribute to the strengthening of Irish medium provision in the school and in the local post-primary school.

## **8 EDUCATION AUTHORITY COMMENTS**

The Education Authority supports the proposal for Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin to increase admissions and enrolment numbers from 21 to 26 and 145 to 182 respectively, with effect from 1 September 2018, or as soon as possible thereafter.

The Education Authority supports the rationale for the development proposal and acknowledges the growth in enrolment numbers. Data available indicates that the school has been on an upward enrolment trend over the last number of years and this proposal will bring the school's admissions number into line with numbers in the school's nursery unit. The Authority notes that the Department of Education has approved a temporary variation to the school's admissions number for the last three years.

On the basis that it has been established that there is sufficient local demand to warrant an increase in the admissions and approved enrolment numbers of Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin, the Education Authority would support Development Proposal 537.

SIGNED:



POSITION: Director of Education

DATE: 10 November 2017

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### **Appendices**

Appendix A: Minutes recorded at Board of Governors Meeting on 20.09.16

Appendix B: Minutes recording support from the Bunscoil staff on 13.09.16

Appendix C: Questionnaire distributed amongst parents of Bunscoil and Naíscoil children from the Public Consultation meeting held at Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin on 29.09.16

Appendix D: Consultation of effected IME schools

## Appendix A

**Cruinniú de Bhord Ghobharnóirí – Bunscoil agus Naiscoil Bheann Mhadagáin 20/09/16**

**Present:**

**Maura Crawford ( Chair), Míchéal Mac Giolla Ghunna, Nuala Mallaghan, Gerry Byrne, Alma Brownlee, Pat Wilson.**

**In attendance; Máire Uí Éigeartaigh ( rúnaí)**

**1. Apologies:**

[REDACTED]

**2. Minutes from the previous meeting were agreed:**

[REDACTED]

**3. Correspondence from DE was passed to the chair relating to updated information on Complaints Tribunals and the school policy will be distributed to Governors for approval.**

[REDACTED]

**4. An updated action plan for the establishment of a nurture unit was distributed.**

[REDACTED]

**5. The criteria for admissions of pupils to year 1 and to the Nursery have been amended and agreed. These have been forwarded to EA for publication.**

**The school are working with Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta on the case for change to increase the school enrolment to 26 ( Year 1) and 182 ( whole school).**

**The board are in agreement to proceed with this case and documentation and associated consultations should be completed for submission by January 2017.**

**6. A report was given by the Finance committee to include the following:**

[REDACTED]

[Redacted]

7. Appointments –

[Redacted]

8. Update on critical Incident –

[Redacted]

8.1 Principal's report –

[Redacted]

8.2 Child protection –

[Redacted]

8.3 Security measures/ building matters:

[Redacted]



## Appendix B

Cruinniú foirne 13/09/16:

I láthair : Máire Uí Éigeartaigh, Cáit Mhic Maoláin, Míchéal O Conghaile, Seosaimhín Ní Ghribín, Eileen Reid, Marie Claire Hughes, Eamann O hÉaráin, Stephanie Haughey, Brónach Moore, Christine Mhic Colaim

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### AGENDA

- Development Proposal
  - DP was discussed, reasons behind the DP and Case for Change
- Need for additional accommodation / increase in enrolment
- Staff agreed unanimously to support the proposal





## Appendix C

Bunscóil agus Naiscúil Bheann Mhadagáin  
Cáide Wyndham Wyndham Drive  
Béal Feirste Belfast  
BT14 6HQ BT14 6HQ

Máire Uí Éigearthaigh - Príomhoide  
Tel: (028) 9074 7184

29/09/16

A Thuismitheoir chóir,

Please read the following carefully and make your response at the bottom of the page:

### CASE FOR CHANGE – Supporting information

#### SUMMARY / OVERVIEW

BOARD AREA	Belfast Region, Education Authority
PROPOSAL	The Board of Governors of BUNSCOIL BHEANN MHADAGÁIN proposes to INCREASE ITS APPROVED ENROLMENT FROM 145 to 182. This will result in the school's Admission Number increasing from 21 to 26 with effect from 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2018 or as soon as possible thereafter.

There are 3 apparent options available to the school; status quo, to increase numbers in present classes, or to increase approved enrolment and provision of additional accommodation to provide for the increase in numbers. The various options are again:

1. Status quo,
2. Increase numbers in classes,
3. Increase approved enrolment and additional accommodation.

As a parent of Bunscóil Bheann Mhadagáin please state your preferred option below:

My preferred option is:

3. Increase approved enrolment and additional accommodation

Signed:

Parent of:

Dated:

29<sup>th</sup> Sept 2016

Web: [www.bunscoilbhm.co.uk](http://www.bunscoilbhm.co.uk)  
Email: [info@bunscoilbheannmhadagain.belfast.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@bunscoilbheannmhadagain.belfast.ni.sch.uk)



Bunscóil agus Naíscóil Bheann Mhadagáin  
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Béal Feirsta Belfast  
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Máire Uí Éigeartaigh - Príomhoide  
Tel: (028) 9074 7184

29/09/16

A Thuismitheoir chóir,

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There are 3 apparent options available to the school; status quo, to increase numbers in present classes, or to increase approved enrolment and provision of additional accommodation to provide for the increase in numbers. The various options are again:

1. *Status quo*,
2. *Increase numbers in classes*,
3. *Increase approved enrolment and additional accommodation*.

As a parent of Bunscóil Bheann Mhadagáin please state your preferred option below:

My preferred option is:

option 3

Signed:

Parent of:

Dated:

30.09.2016.

Web: [www.bunscoilbhm.co.uk](http://www.bunscoilbhm.co.uk)  
Email: [info@bunscoilbheannmhadagain.belfast.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@bunscoilbheannmhadagain.belfast.ni.sch.uk)



Bunscoll agus Naiscill Bheann Mhadagáin  
Céide Wyncham Wyncham Drive  
Béal Fainne Belfast  
BT14 8HQ

Máire Uí Éigeartaigh - Príomhaidé  
Tel: (028) 9074 7184

29/09/16

A Thuismitheoir chóir,

Please read the following carefully and make your response at the bottom of the page:

**CASE FOR CHANGE – Supporting Information**

**SUMMARY / OVERVIEW**

BOARD AREA	Belfast Region, Education Authority
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There are 3 apparent options available to the school; status quo, to increase numbers in present classes, or to increase approved enrolment and provision of additional accommodation to provide for the increase in numbers. The various options are again:

1. Status quo,
2. Increase numbers in classes,
3. Increase approved enrolment and additional accommodation.

As a parent of Bunscoll Bheann Mhadagáin please state your preferred option below:

My preferred option is:

Increase approved enrolment & additional accommodation.  
OR OPTION 3

Signed:

Parent of:

Dated: 30/09/16

Web: [www.bunscollbbm.co.uk](http://www.bunscollbbm.co.uk)  
Email: [info@bunscollbheannmhadagain.belfast.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@bunscollbheannmhadagain.belfast.ni.sch.uk)



Bunscoil agus Naíscoil Bheann Mhadagáin  
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Máire Uí Éigearthaigh - Príomhoide  
Tel: (028) 8074 7184

29/09/16

A Thuismitheoir chóir,

Please read the following carefully and make your response at the bottom of the page:

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There are 3 apparent options available to the school; status quo, to increase numbers in present classes, or to increase approved enrolment and provision of additional accommodation to provide for the increase in numbers. The various options are again:

1. *Status quo,*
2. *Increase numbers in classes,*
3. *Increase approved enrolment and additional accommodation.*

As a parent of Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin please state your preferred option below:

My preferred option is:

Increase approved enrolment and additional accommodation

Signed:

Parent of:

Dated: 30/9/16

Web: [www.bunscoilbbm.co.uk](http://www.bunscoilbbm.co.uk)  
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29/09/16

A Thuismitheoir chóir,

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**SUMMARY / OVERVIEW**

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There are 3 apparent options available to the school; status quo, to increase numbers in present classes, or to increase approved enrolment and provision of additional accommodation to provide for the increase in numbers. The various options are again:

1. Status quo,
2. Increase numbers in classes,
3. Increase approved enrolment and additional accommodation.

As a parent of Bunscóil Bheann Mhadagáin please state your preferred option below:

My preferred option is:

3 increase approved enrolment and additional accommodation

Signed:

Parent of:

Dated:

Web: [www.bunscoilbbm.co.uk](http://www.bunscoilbbm.co.uk)  
Email: [info@bunscoilbheannmhadagain.belfast.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@bunscoilbheannmhadagain.belfast.ni.sch.uk)



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BT14 6HQ BT14 6HQ

Máire Uí Éigeartaigh - Príomhoide  
Tel: (028) 9074 7184

29/09/16

A Thuismitheoir chóir,

Please read the following carefully and make your response at the bottom of the page:

**CASE FOR CHANGE – Supporting Information**

**SUMMARY / OVERVIEW**

BOARD AREA	Belfast Region, Education Authority
PROPOSAL	The Board of Governors of BUNSCOIL BHEANN MHADAGÁIN proposes to INCREASE ITS APPROVED ENROLMENT FROM 145 to 182. This will result in the school's Admission Number increasing from 21 to 26 with effect from 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2018 or as soon as possible thereafter.

There are 3 apparent options available to the school; status quo, to increase numbers in present classes, or to increase approved enrolment and provision of additional accommodation to provide for the increase in numbers. The various options are again:

1. Status quo,
2. Increase numbers in classes,
3. Increase approved enrolment and additional accommodation.

As a parent of Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin please state your preferred option below:

My preferred option is:

3. Increase approved enrolment and additional accommodation.

Signed:

Parent of:

Dated: 30/9/16

Web: [www.bunscoilbhm.co.uk](http://www.bunscoilbhm.co.uk)  
Email: [info@bunscoilbheannmhadagain.belfast.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@bunscoilbheannmhadagain.belfast.ni.sch.uk)



Bunscoll agus Naiscöll Bheann Mhadagáin  
Céide Wyndham Wyndham Drive  
Béal Feirste Belfast  
BT14 6HQ BT14 6HQ

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1. Status quo,
2. Increase numbers in classes,
3. Increase approved enrolment and additional accommodation.

As a parent of Bunscoll Bheann Mhadagáin please state your preferred option below:

My preferred option is:

INCREASE APPROVED ENROLMENT AND ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION.

Signed:

Parent

Dated: 30/09/16

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Bunscóil agus Naíscóil Bheann Mhadagáin  
Cáide Wyndham Wyncham Drive  
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As a parent of Bunscóil Bheann Mhadagáin please state your preferred option below:

My preferred option is:

3 Increase approved enrolment and additional accommodation

Signed:

Parent of:

Dated: 30/09/16

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My preferred option is:

Increase approved enrolment and additional accommodation.

Signed:

Parent of:

Dated: 30/9/16.

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My preferred option is:

3 Increase approved enrolment + additional accommodation

Signed:

Parent of:

Dated:

Web: [www.bunscobbm.co.uk](http://www.bunscobbm.co.uk)  
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My preferred option is:

3

Signed:

Parent of:

Dated:

30-9-2016

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My preferred option is:

3

Signed:

Parent of

Dated: 30/9/16.

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My preferred option is:

3. Increase approved enrolment and additional accommodation

Signed: [Redacted]

Parent of: [Redacted]

Dated: 30/9/16.

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My preferred option is:

3. Increase approved enrolment & additional accommodation.

Signed:

Parent of:

Dated:

30/09/2016

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As a parent of Bunscóil Bheann Mhadagáin please state your preferred option below:

My preferred option is:

3. increase approved enrolment with additional accommodation

Signed: [Redacted]

Parent of: [Redacted]

Dated: 30/09/2016

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Email: [info@bunscoilbheannmhadagain.belfast.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@bunscoilbheannmhadagain.belfast.ni.sch.uk)



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Béal Feirsta Belfast  
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Máire Uí Éigeartaigh - Príomhoide  
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My preferred option is:

INCREASE APPROVED ENROLMENT AND  
ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION

Signed:

Parent of:

Dated:

30/9/16

Web: [www.bunscolibtm.co.uk](http://www.bunscolibtm.co.uk)  
Email: [info@bunscolibheannmhadagain.belfast.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@bunscolibheannmhadagain.belfast.ni.sch.uk)





Bunscóil agus Naiscúil Bheann Mhadagáin  
Cáide Wyndham Wyndham Drive  
Béal Fáirste Belfast  
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Tel: (028) 9074 7184

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My preferred option is:

\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent of: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: 30-9-16 .

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As a parent of Bunscoll Bheann Mhadagáin please state your preferred option below:

My preferred option is:

Number 3.

Signed: [Redacted]

Parent of: [Redacted]

Dated: 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2016

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My preferred option is:

3) Increase approved enrolment and additional accommodation

Signed: [Redacted]

Parent of: [Redacted]

Dated: 30/9/16

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As a parent of Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin please state your preferred option below:

My preferred option is:

③ Increase approved enrolment + additional accommodation

Signed:

Parent of:

Dated:

30/9/16

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There are 3 apparent options available to the school; status quo, to increase numbers in present classes, or to increase approved enrolment and provision of additional accommodation to provide for the increase in numbers. The various options are again:

1. *Status quo*,
2. *Increase numbers in classes,*
3. *Increase approved enrolment and additional accommodation.*

As a parent of Bunscóil Bheann Mhadagáin please state your preferred option below:

My preferred option is:

3

Signed:

Parent of

Dated: 30.9.16

Web: [www.bunscobbm.co.uk](http://www.bunscobbm.co.uk)  
Email: [info@bunscoilbheannmhadagain.belfast.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@bunscoilbheannmhadagain.belfast.ni.sch.uk)



Bunscoil agus Naíscoil Bheann Mhadagáin  
Cáide Wyndham Wyndham Drive  
Bláí Fairte Belfast  
BT14 6HQ BT14 6HQ

Máire Uí Éigeartaigh - Príomhoide  
Tel: (028) 9074 7184

29/09/16

A Thuismitheoir chóir,

Please read the following carefully and make your response at the bottom of the page:

**CASE FOR CHANGE – Supporting Information**

**SUMMARY / OVERVIEW**

BOARD AREA	Belfast Region, Education Authority
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2. Increase numbers in classes,
3. Increase approved enrolment and additional accommodation.

As a parent of Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin please state your preferred option below:

My preferred option is:

3

Signed:

Parent of

Dated: 30/9/16

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Email: [info@bunscoilbheannmhadagain.belfast.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@bunscoilbheannmhadagain.belfast.ni.sch.uk)





Bunscóil agus Naiscúil Bheann Mhadagáin  
Cáide Wyndham Wyncham Drive  
Béal Feirsta Belfast  
BT14 6HQ BT14 6HQ

Máire Uí Éigeartaigh - Páirtíochas  
Tel: (028) 9074 7184

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1. Status quo,
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3. Increase approved enrolment and additional accommodation.

As a parent of Bunscóil Bheann Mhadagáin please state your preferred option below:

My preferred option is:

Option 3 - Increase enrolment and additional accommodation

Signed:

Parent of:

Dated: 28/10/16

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Email: [info@bunscóilbheannmhadagáin.belfast.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@bunscóilbheannmhadagáin.belfast.ni.sch.uk)



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Bláí Feirste Belfast  
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Máin Uí Éigeartaigh - Príomhoide  
Téil: (028) 9074 7184

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As a parent of Bunscóil Bheann Mhadagáin please state your preferred option below:

My preferred option is:

3

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent of \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: 28/10/16

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As a parent of Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin please state your preferred option below:

My preferred option is:

(3)

Signed:

Parent of:

Dated:

28/10/16.

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My preferred option is:

3

Signed:

Parent of:

Dated: 29/10/16

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My preferred option is:

3.

Signed:

Parent of

Dated: 28/10/16

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Email: [info@bunscóilbheannmhadagáin.belfast.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@bunscóilbheannmhadagáin.belfast.ni.sch.uk)



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3. *Increase approved enrolment and additional accommodation.*

As a parent of Bunscóil Bheann Mhadagáin please state your preferred option below:

My preferred option is: **3**

Signed: [Redacted]

Parent of [Redacted]

Dated: **28/10/16.**

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As a parent of Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin please state your preferred option below:

My preferred option is:

**3 Increase approved enrolment and additional accommodation**

Signed:

Parent of:

Dated: 28/10/16

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My preferred option is: 3

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent of: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: 28/10/16

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As a parent of Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin please state your preferred option below:

My preferred option is:

number 3 to increase the classrooms.

Signed:

Parent of

Dated: 28/10/16

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Email: [info@bunscoilbheannmhadagain.belfast.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@bunscoilbheannmhadagain.belfast.ni.sch.uk)



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Béal Feirste Belfast  
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Máire Uí Éigeartaigh - Príomhóid  
Tel: (028) 9074 7184

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My preferred option is:

Option 3

Signed:

Parent of

Dated:

28/10/16 ✓

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My preferred option is:

Option 3

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent of: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: 28-10-16

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Béal Feirste      \* Belfast  
BT14 6HQ      \* BT14 6HQ

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29/09/16

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My preferred option is:

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Signed:

Parent of

Dated: 28/10/16

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number 3

Signed:

Parent of:

Dated: 28/10/16

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\_\_\_\_\_

Signed:   
Parent of:   
Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

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Signed:

Parent of:

Dated:

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As a parent of Bunscóil Bheann Mhadagáin please state your preferred option below:

My preferred option is:

3. Increase approved enrolment and additional accommodation.

Signed: Christine Larkin

Parent of: Cameron Murphy

Dated:





Bunscoil agus Naiscoil Bheann Mhadagáin  
Cáide Wyndham Wyncham Drive  
Béal Feirste Belfast  
BT14 6HQ BT14 6HQ

Maire Uí Éigearthaigh - Príomhoide  
Tel: (028) 6074 7184

29/09/16

A Thuismitheoir chóir,

Please read the following carefully and make your response at the bottom of the page:

**CASE FOR CHANGE – Supporting information**

**SUMMARY / OVERVIEW**

BOARD AREA	Belfast Region, Education Authority
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1. Status quo,
2. Increase numbers in classes,
3. Increase approved enrolment and additional accommodation.

As a parent of Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin please state your preferred option below:

My preferred option is:

*Option 3*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent of \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: *30/09/16*

Web: [www.bunscoilbhm.co.uk](http://www.bunscoilbhm.co.uk)  
Email: [info@bunscoilbheannmhadagain.belfast.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@bunscoilbheannmhadagain.belfast.ni.sch.uk)



Bunscóil agus Naiscúil Bheann Mhadagáin  
Céide Wyndham Wyndham Drive  
Béal Feirste Belfast  
BT14 6HQ BT14 6HQ

Máim Uí Éigearthaigh - Píofholoí  
Tel: (028) 9074 7184

29/09/16

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1. Status quo,
2. Increase numbers in classes,
3. Increase approved enrolment and additional accommodation.

As a parent of Bunscóil Bheann Mhadagáin please state your preferred option below:

My preferred option is:

(Máim Uí Éigearthaigh) 3

Signed:

Parent of:

Dated: 28/10/16

Web: [www.bunscolibm.co.uk](http://www.bunscolibm.co.uk)  
Email: [info@bunscolibm.co.uk](mailto:info@bunscolibm.co.uk)



Bunscóil agus Naíscóil Bheann Mhadagáin  
Céide Wyndham Wyndham Drive  
Béal Feirste Belfast  
BT14 6HQ BT14 6HQ

Máire Uí Éigseartaigh - Príomhleádaí  
Tel: (028) 9074 7184

29/09/16

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1. *Status quo*,
2. *Increase numbers in classes*,
3. *Increase approved enrolment and additional accommodation*.

As a parent of Bunscóil Bheann Mhadagáin please state your preferred option below:

My preferred option is:

Option 3

Signed:

Parent of:

Dated: 27/10/16.

Web: [www.bunscoilbbm.co.uk](http://www.bunscoilbbm.co.uk)  
Email: [info@bunscoilbheannmhadagain.belfast.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@bunscoilbheannmhadagain.belfast.ni.sch.uk)



Bunscóil agus Naiscúil Bheann Mhadagáin  
Céide Wyndham Wyncham Drive  
Béal Feirsta Belfast  
BT14 6HQ BT14 6HQ

Máire Uí Éigeartaigh - Príomhoide  
Tel: (028) 9074 7164

29/09/16

A Thuismitheoir chóir,

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1. Status quo,
2. Increase numbers in classes,
3. Increase approved enrolment and additional accommodation.

As a parent of Bunscóil Bheann Mhadagáin please state your preferred option below:

My preferred option is:

3.

Signed:

Parent of

Dated: 08.11.16

Web: [www.bunscóilbhm.co.uk](http://www.bunscóilbhm.co.uk)  
Email: [info@bunscóilbheannmhadagáin.belfast.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@bunscóilbheannmhadagáin.belfast.ni.sch.uk)



Bunscoll agus Naiscill Bheann Mhadagáin  
Cáide Wyncham Wyncham Drive  
Béal Fairte Belfast  
BT14 6HQ BT14 6HC

Máire Uí Éigeartaigh - Príomhoide  
Tel: (028) 8074 718

29/09/16

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1. Status quo ,
2. Increase numbers in classes,
3. Increase approved enrolment and additional accommodation.

As a parent of Bunscoll Bheann Mhadagáin please state your preferred option below:

My preferred option is:

3 increase approved enrolment and additional accommodation.

Signed:

Parent of:

Dated: 9<sup>th</sup> Nov 2016

Web: [www.bunscollbhm.co.uk](http://www.bunscollbhm.co.uk)  
Email: [info@bunscollbheannmhadagain.belfast.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@bunscollbheannmhadagain.belfast.ni.sch.uk)



Bunscóil agus Naiscúil Bheann Mhadagáin  
Cáide Wyndham      Wyndham Drive  
Béal Feirste      Belfast  
BT14 6HQ      BT14 6HQ

Máire Uí Éigeartaigh - Príomhoide  
Tel: (028) 9074 7184

29/09/16

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1. Status quo,
2. Increase numbers in classes,
3. Increase approved enrolment and additional accommodation.

As a parent of Bunscóil Bheann Mhadagáin please state your preferred option below:

My preferred option is:

3

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent of \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: 01/11/16

Web: [www.bunscoilbbm.co.uk](http://www.bunscoilbbm.co.uk)  
Email: [info@bunscoilbheannmhadagain.belfast.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@bunscoilbheannmhadagain.belfast.ni.sch.uk)



Bunscóil agus Naiscúil Bheann Mhadagáin  
Céide Wyndham Wyndham Drive  
Béal Feirsta Belfast  
BT14 6HQ BT14 6HQ

Máire Uí Éigearbáigh - Príomhcheid  
Tel: (028) 9074 7184

29/09/16

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3. *Increase approved enrolment and additional accommodation*.

As a parent of Bunscóil Bheann Mhadagáin please state your preferred option below:

My preferred option is:

3

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent of \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: 9 NOV 2016

Web: [www.bunscoilbbm.co.uk](http://www.bunscoilbbm.co.uk)  
Email: [info@bunscoilbheannmhadagain.belfast.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@bunscoilbheannmhadagain.belfast.ni.sch.uk)



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2. Increase numbers in classes,
3. Increase approved enrolment and additional accommodation.

As a parent of Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin please state your preferred option below:

My preferred option is:

Number 3

Signed:

Parent of

Dated: 10-10-16





Bunscóil Bheann Mhadagáin  
Cáide Wyndham      Wyndham Drive  
Béal Feirste      Belfast  
BT14 6HQ      BT14 6HQ

Máire Uí Eigeartaigh - Príomhoide  
Tel: (028) 9074 7184

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As a parent of Bunscóil Bheann Mhadagáin please state your preferred option below:

My preferred option is:

Number 3.

Signed:

Parent

Dated: 9/10/16.

Web: [www.bunscollbhm.co.uk](http://www.bunscollbhm.co.uk)  
Email: [info@bunscollbheannmhadagain.belfast.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@bunscollbheannmhadagain.belfast.ni.sch.uk)



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BT14 6HQ BT14 6HQ

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My preferred option is:

Number 3

Signed:

Parent of:

Dated: 9-11-16

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Email: [info@bunscoilbheannmhadagain.belfast.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@bunscoilbheannmhadagain.belfast.ni.sch.uk)



Bunscoil agus Naíonól Bheann Mhadagáin  
Cáide Wyncham  
Béal Feirste  
BT14 6HQ

Wyncham Drive  
Belfast  
BT14 6HQ

Máire Uí Éigeartaigh - Príomhóide  
Tel: (028) 9074 7184

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My preferred option is:

Number 3

Signed:

Parent of

Dated: 9/11/16

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3. *Increase approved enrolment and additional accommodation*.

As a parent of Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin please state your preferred option below:

My preferred option is:

3. Increase approved enrolment and additional accommodation

Signed:

Parent of

Dated: 30/9/17.



Bunscoil agus Naíonóil Bheann Mhadagáin  
Cáide Wyndham Wynndham Drive  
Béal Feirste Belfast  
BT14 6HQ BT14 6HQ

Máire Uí Éigeartaigh - Príomhcheoltóir  
Tel: (028) 8074 7184

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2. Increase numbers in classes,
3. Increase approved enrolment and additional accommodation.

As a parent of Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin please state your preferred option below:

My preferred option is:

Increase approved enrolment and additional accommodation.

Signed: [Redacted]

Parent of [Redacted]

Dated: 30/09/16

Web: [www.bunscoilbbm.co.uk](http://www.bunscoilbbm.co.uk)  
Email: [info@bunscoilbheannmhadagain.belfast.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@bunscoilbheannmhadagain.belfast.ni.sch.uk)

**Appendix D**

**Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain Response:**

**From:** Séamas Ó Donnghaile [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 15 December 2016 14:01  
**To:** Tomás Ó Néill; Anne c2k  
**Subject:** Re: Cruinnú le sócrú

A Thomáis, a chara,

Tá Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain go mór i bhfách le Moladh Forbartha BBM. Ní chuirfeadh cúrsaí BBM amach nó isteach ar ghnaithe scoil s'againn féin.

*Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain is very much in favour of the Development Proposal for BBM. BBM affairs will neither positively nor negatively affect the day-to-day running of our school.*

le mórmheas  
Séamas Ó Donnghaile  
Rúnaí na nGobharnóirí  
B Mhic Reachtain

2016-12-14 10:43 GMT+00:00 Tomás Ó Néill [REDACTED]

A Phríomhoide,

Bheinn buíoch díbh ach freagra a chur ar ais chugamsa ina leith seo mar go mbeidh Moladh Forbartha le seoladh isteach chuig an ÚO agus An Roinn Oideachais, le bhur dtoil. Gabhaim mo leithscéal as an Bhéarla a úsáid ina dhiadh seo ach bainfeair úsáid as seo mar chuid den fhianaise leis an mholadh agus cuirfeair an rud isteach as Béarla.

Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta is working in partnership with Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin in relation to a change of enrolment/admissions number for Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin.

To that end, we are consulting the other local gaelscoileanna to ascertain your views on the implications in relation to Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain, Gaelscoil an Lonnáin, Gaelscoil na bhFál and Gaelscoil Éanna.

For example, would the change in enrolment/admission numbers impact on your catchment-area? Would it impact on your enrolment numbers? Would it impact on your school in a negative way that is not obvious to us?

This case for change is linked to the current need for increased capacity in Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin to increase the school for a 5-base to 7-base school.

We would welcome your thoughts, concerns or otherwise on the matter as soon as possible as they will form a crucial part of the evidence for the consultation process for inclusion in the development proposal.

Chuirge sin, bheimis fíor-bhuíoch díbh ach bhur gcuid smaointe a chur in iúl as Béarla / I would be grateful if you could respond with your views on this matter in English.

**Le dea-mhéin, Tomás Ó Néill, Dífigeach Comhairleach**  
Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta, 4 Sráid na Banríona, Béal Feirste, BT1 6ED

**Gaelscoil an Lonnáin Response:**

A Thomais, a chara,

I am writing in response to your inquiry regarding Gaelscoil an Lonnáin's view of Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin's Development Proposal.

As principal of Gaelscoil an Lonnáin I fully support the submission of this proposal and strongly feel that Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin not only deserves a 7-base school but requires the same, without delay, to adequately provide for the needs of the pupils in its ever-growing school community.

I do not feel that an increase in enrolment figures for Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin would have any detrimental effect on Gaelscoil an Lonnáin, or on our admissions - on the contrary, it would add to the strength and effectiveness of the already growing Irish-Medium sector in Belfast.

I extend every good wish to Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin in the submission of their Development Proposal and look forward to receiving news of a successful outcome.

Is mise le meas,  
Ciara Mhic Giolla Bhríde

---

**From:** Tomás Ó Néill  
**Sent:** 27 October 2016 14:33  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Moladh Forbartha BS Bheann Mhadagáin

A Phríomhoide,

Bheinn buíoch díbh ach freagra a chur ar ais chugamsa ina leith seo mar go mbeidh Moladh Forbartha le seoladh isteach chuig an ÚO agus An Roinn Oideachais, le bhur dtoil. Gabhaim mo leithscéal as an Bhéarla a úsáid ina dhiaidh seo ach bainfear úsáid as seo mar chuid den fhianaise leis an mholadh agus cuirfear an rud isteach as Béarla.

Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta is working in partnership with Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin in relation to a change of enrolment/admissions number for Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin.

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**Le dea-mhéin, Tomás Ó Néill, Oifigeach Comhairleach**  
Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta, 4 Sráid na Banríona, Béal Feirste, BT1 6ED  
Guthán: 02890 321475, Ext: 02890 897330, Suíomh idirlín: [www.comhairle.org](http://www.comhairle.org)

**Gaelscoil Éanna Response:**

A Thomáis,

As principal at Gaelscoil Éanna I would be happy to support the Case for Change as to be submitted by Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin. I do not believe that a change in general enrolment or an increase in admissions number at the Bunscoil would have any negative impact within the catchment area of GSÉ. I do not foresee that our enrolment numbers would be directly impacted upon given that we serve very different geographical areas. I am indeed strained to think of any other negative impact that the proposed changes would have on us and therefore fully endorse the Case for Change and wish the school community all the best in attaining approval from DE.

Mise, le meas,  
Maighréad Ní Chonghaile

---

**From:** Tomás Ó Néill [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 27 October 2016 14:33  
**To:** M Ní Chonghaile; ORLA FLANAGAN; S ODonnghaile; C McBride  
**Subject:** Moladh Forbartha BS Bheann Mhadagáin

A Phríomhoide,

Bheinn buíoch díbh ach freagra a chur ar ais chugainn ina leith seo mar go mbeidh Moladh Forbartha le seoladh isteach chuig an ÚO agus An Roinn Oideachais, le bhur dtuill. Gabhaim mo leithscéal as an Bhéarla a úsáid ina dhiadhl seo ach bainfead úsáid as seo mar chuid den fhianaise leis an mholadh agus cuirfead an rud isteach as Béarla.

Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta is working in partnership with Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin in relation to a change of enrolment/admissions number for Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin.

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Chuirge sin, bheimis fíor-bhuíoch díbh ach bhur gcuid smaointe a chur in iúl as Béarla / I would be grateful if you could respond with your views on this matter in English.

**Le dea-mhéin, Tomás Ó Néill, Dlígeach Comhairleach**

Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta, 4 Sráid na Banníona, Béal Feirste, BT1 6ED  
Guthán: 02890 321475, Ext: 02890 897330, Suíomh idirlín: [www.comhairle.org](http://www.comhairle.org)



**Gaelscoil na bhFál Response:**

A Thomáis,

Ní fheicim go rachaidh an moldadh forbartha seo i bhfeidhm orainn ar chor ar bith. Níl páistí ar bith again ó thuaisceart na cathrach. Ádh mór leis an mholadh. Rud iontach atá ann.

I do not see that this development proposal would affect us at all. None of our children come from the north of the city. Good luck with the proposal. It's a great thing.

Orla Flanagan  
Príomhoide Gaelscoil na bhFál

From: Tomás Ó Néill

Sent: 27 October 2016 14:33

To: [REDACTED] LA FLANAGAN; [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Moladh Forbartha BS Bheann Mhadagáin

A Phríomhoide,

Bheinn buíoch díbh ach freagra a chur ar ais chugamsa ina leith seo mar go mbeidh Moladh Forbartha le seoladh isteach chuig an ÚO agus An Roinn Oideachais, le bhur dtuill. Gabhaim mo leithscéal as an Bhéarla a úsáid ina dhiaidh seo ach bainfead úsáid as seo mar chuid den fhianaise leis an mholadh agus cuirfead an rud isteach as Béarla.

Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta is working in partnership with Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin in relation to a change of enrolment/admissions number for Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin.

To that end, we are consulting the other local gaelscoileanna to ascertain your views on the implications in relation to Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain, Gaelscoil an Lonnáin, Gaelscoil na bhFál and Gaelscoil Éanna. For example, would the change in enrolment/admission numbers impact on your catchment-area? Would it impact on your enrolment numbers? Would it impact on your school in a negative way that is not obvious to us?

This case for change is linked to the current need for increased capacity in Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin to increase the school for a 5-base to 7-base school.

We would welcome your thoughts, concerns or otherwise on the matter as soon as possible as they will form a crucial part of the evidence for the consultation process for inclusion in the development proposal.

Chuirge sin, bheimis fíor-bhuíoch díbh ach bhur gcuide smaointe a chur in iúl as Béarla / I would be grateful if you could respond with your views on this matter in English.

**Le dea-mháin, Tomás Ó Néill, Dirigeach Comhairleach**

Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta, 4 Sráid na Banríona, Béal Feirste, BT1 6ED

Guthán: 02890 321475. Ext: 02890 897330. Suíomh Idirlín: [www.comhairle.org](http://www.comhairle.org)

## APPENDIX C: ETI Commentary

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### ETI Development Proposal Commentary Paper DP 537 6 December 2017

**Date of last ETI report: October 2016**

**Web link: <https://www.etini.gov.uk/publications/primary-inspection-bunscoil-agus-naiscoil-bheann-mhadagain-belfast>**

Each DP for changes to Primary and Post Primary Schools is assessed against the Sustainable Schools Policy. DPs for Early Years provision are assessed within the context of the “Learning to Learn” policy and those for changes to special education provision are assessed against the Special Education Review.

The key focus for the ETI is on the quality of the educational experience and the educational impact on the pupils enrolled in the schools at which the change is proposed and the potential impact on pupils in other schools in the local area.

The ETI is therefore asked to put forward views on:

Update on relevant/contextual information since the last published inspection report.

- To note the EA ‘The case for change – supporting information’ does not make reference to the most recent report.
- Section 1.5.4 refers to a January 2010 ETI follow-up visit.
- By December 2016 the school had a full inspection.
- The overall conclusion was that the school had important areas for improvement.
- While the standards and achievements were evaluated as good, the quality of provision and leadership and management were evaluated as having important areas for improvement. This is not referenced in the EA document.
- EA ‘The Case for Change’ section 1.5.4 may need to be re-considered in the light of the most up-to-date ETI evaluation.

1. Knowledge of **any contextual information on the quality of education** in the wider local area.

- Sacred Heart Boys’ PS (600m) from the school has a new principal since September 2017.
- Cliftonville Integrated PS (50m) from the school has a new principal from November 2017.
- A new leader may mean an upward trend in applications for places in both schools; this may have an impact on the applications for places across all three schools.

2. Potential benefits/concerns associated with the claims of **educational** benefits for pupils made in the Case for Change.

- At the time of the most recent inspection, the school had recently moved premises to the new build and staff were still adjusting to the new accommodation.
- The school had also just dealt with, and was still dealing with the fall-out from, a very serious critical incident which impacted on the whole-school community.
- There had been a recent disproportionate amount of staff absence.
- Given the strengths identified within the nursery unit and at key stage (KS) 2, it is envisaged that the school (once the contributing contextual factors at the time of the last inspection have settled), will soon demonstrate the capacity to identify and bring about improvement.
- The interim follow-up inspection (IFUI), scheduled for June 2017, did not go ahead due to action short of strike undertaken by the teaching unions; consequently the ETI is unable to evaluate progress on the areas for improvement.

3. Any concerns about the **implementation date or phasing of implementation** should this be applicable (i.e. curricular, EF, accommodation, LSCs, etc).

- The IFUI, scheduled for June 2017, did not go ahead due to action short of strike undertaken by the teaching unions; consequently the ETI is unable to evaluate progress on the areas for improvement.

4. The **SSP Criteria** indicators requiring ETI input (if known and/or for which information is available).

Sustainable Schools Criterion	Indicator	Meets criterion		
		Yes	No (include reason(s))	Information not available
Quality Educational Experience	1.1 Attainment levels of pupils <sup>1</sup> , Key Stage tests pending development of new indicators for Primary Schools, GCSE results for Post-Primary Schools.	Ref ETI report Oct 16		
	1.2 No more than <u>two</u> composite year groups in a single classroom at primary school level.	√		
	1.3 A <u>minimum</u> of four teachers <sup>2</sup> at a primary school. This recognises both the needs of pupils and the demands on teachers.	√		
	1.4 The ability of the school to cater for children with Special Educational Needs.	Ref ETI report Oct 16		
	1.5 The ability at post-primary level to be able to provide suitable access to the entitlement framework including, where appropriate, linkages with other schools, the FE sector or other providers.	N/A		
	1.6 The standards and the quality of learning and teaching at the school.	Ref ETI report Oct 16		
	1.7 The range of curricular and extra-curricular activities available for children including career guidance, physical education, music, art, drama and science.	Ref ETI report Oct 16		

<sup>1</sup> Given the importance of factors such as the background of the children, the socio-economic conditions in the community and levels of parental support in pupils' attainment levels, the Department is working towards a contextualised 'value-added' approach.

<sup>2</sup> Where a small school is retained the teaching principal post will remain.

	1.8 The quality of the <u>physical</u> environment for learning and teaching i.e. the condition, energy and water efficiency and suitability of the buildings.	√		
	1.9 The quality of, and arrangements for, pastoral care including the active promotion of the principles of social justice in all areas of the formal and informal curriculum.	Ref ETI report Oct 16		
<b>Strong Leadership and Management by Boards of Governors and Principals</b>	4.1 Governors' views on the school based on quantitative and qualitative evidence.	Ref ETI report Oct 16		
	4.8 There is a school development plan in place and progress is being made to achieve the plan's aims and objectives.	Ref ETI report Oct 16		
	4.9 Pupil behaviour, expulsions, suspensions and non-attendance as well as positive behaviours such as involvement in school management (e.g. buddying and mentoring schemes).	Ref ETI report Oct 16		
<b>Strong links with the Community</b>	6.1 Degree and quality of parental involvement (schools will be asked to provide evidence on this).	Ref ETI report Oct 16		
	6.3 Contribution of the school to the community (schools will be asked to provide evidence on this).	Ref ETI report Oct 16		
	6.4 Presence of other features of provision, e.g. nursery or specialist unit <sup>3</sup> .	Ref ETI report Oct 16		

<sup>3</sup> Including reception, IME/LSC/ASC unit, etc.

## 5. Overall conclusion of impact of the proposal

### SUMMARY

Bunscoil and Naiscoil Bheann Mhadagain need to address important areas for improvement:

- Improve the school development planning process, ensuring that the action plans are focused on outcomes and the learning needs of the children;
- Improve the quality of the planning, learning, teaching and assessment in order to improve the learning experiences for all children and raise the standards they attain; and
- Develop the capacity of the leadership to monitor and evaluate the quality of the provision and the standards achieved by all children.
  
- The ETI considered the post-inspection plan submitted by the school in February 2017; it was noted that staff development opportunities would be a key driver towards improvement; an agreed understanding of what constitutes effective learning, observations of the most effective practice in the school and first hand evidence of the children's learning (including supportive feedback to colleagues) would all add to the process and pace of improvement.
  
- The follow-up process, and the ETI's evaluation of the progress towards improvement, has been affected by action short of strike.
  
- However, given the strengths identified within the nursery unit and at KS2, it is envisaged that the school, once the contributing contextual factors at the time of the last inspection have settled and the areas for improvement have been addressed, will soon demonstrate the capacity to identify and bring about improvement.

## **APPENDIX D: DE TEAM INPUTS**

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### **A] INCLUSION & WELLBEING DIRECTORATE INPUT**

From a special educational needs (SEN) policy perspective, SET would not have any objection to this DP subject to the receipt of assurances that any impact on pupils with SEN will be considered and managed effectively.

### **B] FINANCE INPUT**

At 31 March 2017, Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagain held a cumulative 2016-17 closing surplus of £45,544.

The school received a total delegated budget of £567,799 in the 2017-18 financial year for 158 primary pupils (per capita £3,594) which compares to an average for all primary schools of £3,001. Details of budget allocation in 2017-18 to the school shown in the table below.

Increased enrolments for an individual school typically has limited impact on the ASB for schools – as these pupils would be educated and funded elsewhere. The provision for Small Schools Support funding (currently £38.6k) and Primary Principals Release funding (currently £14k) would be reduced with an increased enrolment for the school.

All other financial considerations (including any in-year costs for pupil growth, in the context of a school with an approved DP to increase its enrolment) would be for the EA to consider as Funding Authority for the school.

### **C] SCHOOL ADMISSIONS TEAM INPUT**

#### **Development Proposal**

Development Proposal (DP) 537 proposes to increase the approved admissions number of Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin from 21 to 26 and the enrolment number from 145 to 182, with effect from 1 September 2018 or as soon as possible thereafter.

#### **Rationale for the DP**

The Case for Change (CfC) for DP537 states that should this proposal be approved it would bring the admissions intake into line with historical demand, ensure that Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin is better prepared for the future as a 7 class base school and provide the school with the scope to fulfil its potential. It is also stated that the proposal would bring the school into line with its nursery's admissions number of 26 as there is a reasonable expectation among parents that a child in a statutory nursery should get a place within the adjoining primary school.

In the 'Open Enrolment in Primary Schools' Circular Number 2016/17 (as revised) DE strongly recommends that primary schools do **not** use admissions criteria related to attendance at a specified nursery/pre-school setting. This guidance is also mirrored consistently in DE's 'Irish-medium Primary School Admissions Criteria' Circular Number 2014/16 where it is stated that 'This practice [i.e. prioritising nursery

attendance] is not considered appropriate, as pre-school is a non-compulsory phase of education.’

### Current Approved Enrolment and Admissions Numbers

As alluded to in paragraph 1.1 above, Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin currently has approved admissions and enrolment numbers of 21 and 145 respectively.

When a DP is approved to modify a school’s approved numbers, in line with the proposal, the revised admissions number would normally apply from the effective date noted in the DP (or as soon as possible thereafter) and it would usually be SAT standard practice to then incrementally phase-in decreases or increases to the enrolment number annually (in consultation with the school, the Education Authority, and where appropriate, CCMS) with a view to meeting the eventual final enrolment number as stipulated in the DP. Phasing up of the enrolment however may be hindered by the current accommodation at the school. It is noted in the CfC that if the DP is not approved, given the current pattern of increasing enrolment, the school will outgrow its existing enrolment and ‘...indeed, a class is currently already being taught in a resource area (which is, essentially, an enlarged corridor space).’ In the event of the DP being approved, SAT will take account of all factors including, where appropriate, accommodation, before agreeing approved numbers.

### Temporary Variations

If a school receives more applications for admission than it has places available it can request a Temporary Variation (TV) of its admissions and/enrolment number from the Department. The Department may approve TVs to a school’s numbers to respond to particular demographic pressures in an area in a particular year.

When considering a TV request from a school the Department will look at the availability of places in that sector in the area within a reasonable travelling distance of each pupil’s home address. For primary schools, in relation to TV requests, DE defines ‘reasonable travelling distance’ as a distance of two miles from a child’s home.

It should be noted that a TV is granted on the condition that no additional accommodation will be involved. TVs are not granted to address anticipation of demand, nor a long term desire to increase the size of a school within an area.

Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin has had previous TVs approved as follows:

<u>School Year</u>	<u>Approved Admissions Number</u>	<u>Approved Enrolment Number</u>	<u>Temporary Variations Approved (To total of)*</u>	
			<u>Admissions</u>	<u>Enrolment</u>
2017/18	21	145	27	-
2016/17	21	145	28	-
2015/16	21	145	26	-
2014/15	21	145	-	-
2013/14	25	174	-	-

\*Figures do not include statemented children (all year groups) or any children who may have been admitted by appeal (year of admission only).



## **D] CURRICULUM QUALIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS INPUT**

The ETI carried out a follow up inspection in January 2010 and it found that, in the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by the school was good. The ETI identified “some aspects of the areas for improvement still to be addressed but equally the organisation has demonstrated the capacity to address these.” No issues/concerns have been identified, from a policy perspective, in respect of the development proposal by any of the CQSD policy teams.

## **E] EDUCATION WORKFORCE DIRECTORATE INPUT**

EWD has reviewed the Case for Change and noted the potential for staffing implications for increasing admissions and enrolments as highlighted at para 6.2.

Assurance should be sought from the Education Authority that any potential impact on terms and conditions of teaching staff are managed in accordance with:

- **TNC 2011/8** – Workload Agreement: should the Case for Change result in an increase to enrolment in a school, or surrounding schools, assurance should be provided regarding how potential impact on teacher workload, as a result of increased class size, will be managed.

It is noted that “the Development Proposal would not create any potential issues for other schools in the surrounding area as “there are a total of 4 IME Primary providers within a 2-mile radius (as the crow flies) and that there would be no adverse effect upon other IM Pre-school providers as the approval of this proposal would not increase current places but merely, recognise and conciliate the evidenced demand over the last number of years”.

No issues/concerns have been identified, from a policy perspective, in respect of the development proposal for non-teaching staff.

## **F] YOUTH, EARLY YEARS & CHILDCARE INPUT**

Naíscoil Bheann Mhadagáin was a voluntary/private pre-school education provider participating in the Pre School Education Programme (PSEP) since 1998/99 until it was subsequently replaced by a statutory nursery unit at Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin for the 2012/13 academic year.

The Bunscoil Nursery Unit has 26 full-time places and in the 2015/16 and 2016/17 academic years it had Temporary Flexibility requests approved for 4 and 3 children respectively.

In the 2017/18 academic year the nursery unit accepted ■ underage children suggesting it was under-subscribed for this year.

**Pre-School Provision Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin**

<b><u>104-6596</u></b>	<b><u>Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin</u></b>	<b><u>Statutory Places Available</u></b>	<b><u>Temp Flexibility</u></b>	<b><u>Underage Pupils</u></b>	<b><u>Total intake</u></b>	<b><u>P1</u></b>
<b><u>2015/2016</u></b>		<u>26</u>	█	<u>0</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>24</u>
<b><u>2016/2017</u></b>		<u>26</u>	█	<u>0</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>28</u>
<b><u>2017/2018</u></b>		<u>26</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>23</u>

Source -15/16 & 16/17 figures School Census data  
 -2017/18 figures from the EA.

**G] INVESTMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE DIVISION INPUT**

Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin proposes to increase its enrolment from 145 to 182 and admissions from 21 to 26 with effect from 1 September 2018, or as soon as possible thereafter.

Current Position

The school moved into a new build in late 2015. It is a 5 class base school although a resource area is being used as sixth classroom.

Additional Accommodation Requirements

The school was originally designed to allow for expansion from a 5 to 7 class base. Should the DP be approved options to provide additional accommodation to include a brick build extension will be considered further. The case for change however proposes that an additional double modular classroom is installed on site. The cost for provision of one double mobile would be in the region of £180-£200k, a brick build solution would cost a similar amount.

Costs and Timescales

Lead in times for provision of modular accommodation is in the region of 12 months from the submission of a minor works application to completion on site. Lead in times for the provision of a brick build extension would be in the region of two years. Timescales and costs will vary and will be determined following a survey of the site. Planning permission will also be required for either of the options.

Funding position - any approved capital minor works will be 100% grant funded by the DE.

## APPENDIX E: AREA PROFILE

### Primary School Annual Area Profile 2017

DE Ref No:	School Name:	Status:	Council Area:
1046596	Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagain	Other Maintained	BELFAST

Annual Census Information			
Year	Total pupils Y1-Y7	IMU	FSME %
2013/14	108	0	61.1
2014/15	116	0	62.9
2015/16	125	0	66.4
2016/17	129	0	60.5%
Approved Reception – Year 7 enrolment number			145
Approved Reception – Year 7 admissions number			21
Year 1 Pupils 2016/17			28
First Preferences Applications 2016/17			35

Formal Intervention	
In formal intervention any period 1 April 2016 – 31 March 2017	

Budgets			
Year	Available Delegated Resources £	Surplus/Deficit £	Surplus/Deficit %
2013/14	465,108	-41,083	-8.83%
2014/15	481,752	-41,186	-8.55%
2015/16	606,960	38,285	6.31%

KEY TO SYMBOLS & TEXT USED IN DATA ABOVE	
Symbol / Text	Definition
*	Relates to fewer than 5 cases.
#	Means that a figure greater than or equal to 5 had been treated to prevent disclosure of a small number elsewhere.
-	School not open in the relevant academic year
n/a	No year 7 pupils